

SONY[®]

STEREO VIDEO CASSETTE RECORDER 

SL-HF550

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Before operating the unit, please read this manual thoroughly, and retain it for future reference.

OWNER'S RECORD

The model and serial numbers of your set are located at the rear. Record the serial number in the space provided below. Refer to these numbers whenever you call upon your Sony dealer regarding this product.

Model No. SL-HF550 Serial No. _____



Super Beta hi-fi





This unit can be used with any video cassette tapes having the mark . It is compatible with the  and  type recording and playback formats, and will play back tapes recorded in the  format.

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WARNING

To prevent fire or shock hazard, do not expose the unit to rain or moisture.



This symbol is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated "dangerous voltage" within the product's enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock to persons.



This symbol is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the appliance.

CAUTION :

TO PREVENT ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT USE THIS POLARIZED AC PLUG WITH AN EXTENSION CORD, RECEPTACLE OR OTHER OUTLET UNLESS THE BLADES CAN BE FULLY INSERTED TO PREVENT BLADE EXPOSURE.

INFORMATION

This equipment generates and uses radio frequency energy and if not installed and used properly, that is, in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, may cause interference to radio and television reception. It has been type tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B computing device in accordance with the specifications in Subpart J of Part 15 of FCC Rules, which are designed to provide reasonable protection against such interference in a residential installation. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures :

- reorient the receiving antenna
- relocate this equipment with respect to the receiver
- move this equipment away from the receiver
- plug this equipment into a different outlet so that equipment and receiver are on different branch circuits.

If necessary, the user should consult the dealer or an experienced radio/television technician for additional suggestions. The user may find the following booklet prepared by the Federal Communications Commission helpful : "How to Identify and Resolve Radio-TV Interference Problems". This booklet is available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington DC, 20042, Stock No. 004-000-00345-4.

PRECAUTIONS

On safety

- Before operating, check that the operating power voltage and frequency of the unit are identical with those of your local power supply.
- Should any solid object or liquid fall into the cabinet, unplug the unit and have it checked by qualified personnel before operating it any further.
- One blade of the plug is wider than the other for the purpose of safety and will fit into the power outlet only one way. If you are unable to insert the plug fully into the outlet, contact your dealer.
- Unplug the unit from the wall outlet if it is not to be used for an extended period of time. To disconnect the cord, pull it out by the plug. Never pull the cord itself.

On installation

- Allow adequate air circulation to prevent internal heat build-up.
- Do not place the unit on surfaces (rugs, blankets, etc.) or near materials (curtains, draperies) that may block the ventilation slots.
- Do not install the unit near heat sources such as radiators or air ducts or in a place subject to direct sunlight, excessive dust, mechanical vibration or shock.
- The unit is designed for operation in a horizontal position. Do not install it in an inclined position.
- Keep the unit and cassette tapes away from equipment with strong magnets, as for example a microwave oven or a large loudspeaker.
- Do not place any heavy object on the unit.

On operation

- When the unit is not in use, turn off the power to conserve energy and to extend its useful life.
- Remove and store video cassettes after recording or playback.
- Store the cassettes in their cases and keep them in an upright position to prevent intrusion of dust and uneven winding.

On cleaning

Clean the cabinet, panel and controls with a soft dry cloth, or a soft cloth lightly moistened with a mild detergent solution.

Do not use any type of solvent, such as alcohol or benzene which might damage the finish.

On repacking

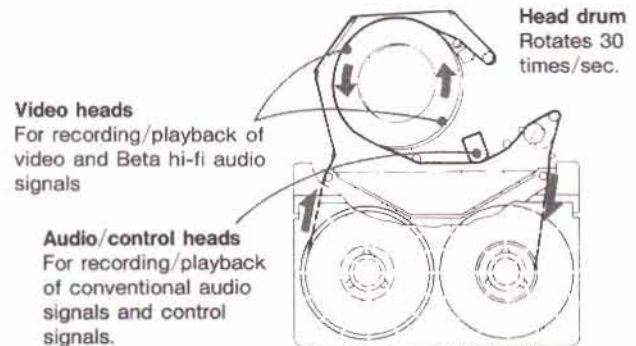
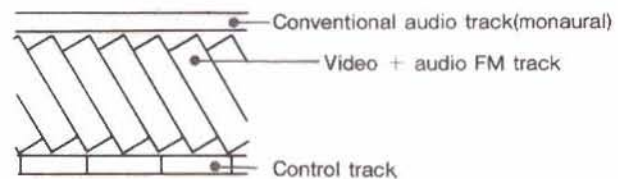
Do not throw away the carton and packing materials. They make an ideal container in which to transport the unit. When shipping the unit to another location, repack it as illustrated on the carton.

WHAT IS BETA HI-FI RECORDING?

In conventional recording, audio signals are recorded on the audio track and video signals on the video track. In Beta hi-fi recording, audio signals are recorded on the video track together with the video signals using 2 rotary video heads.

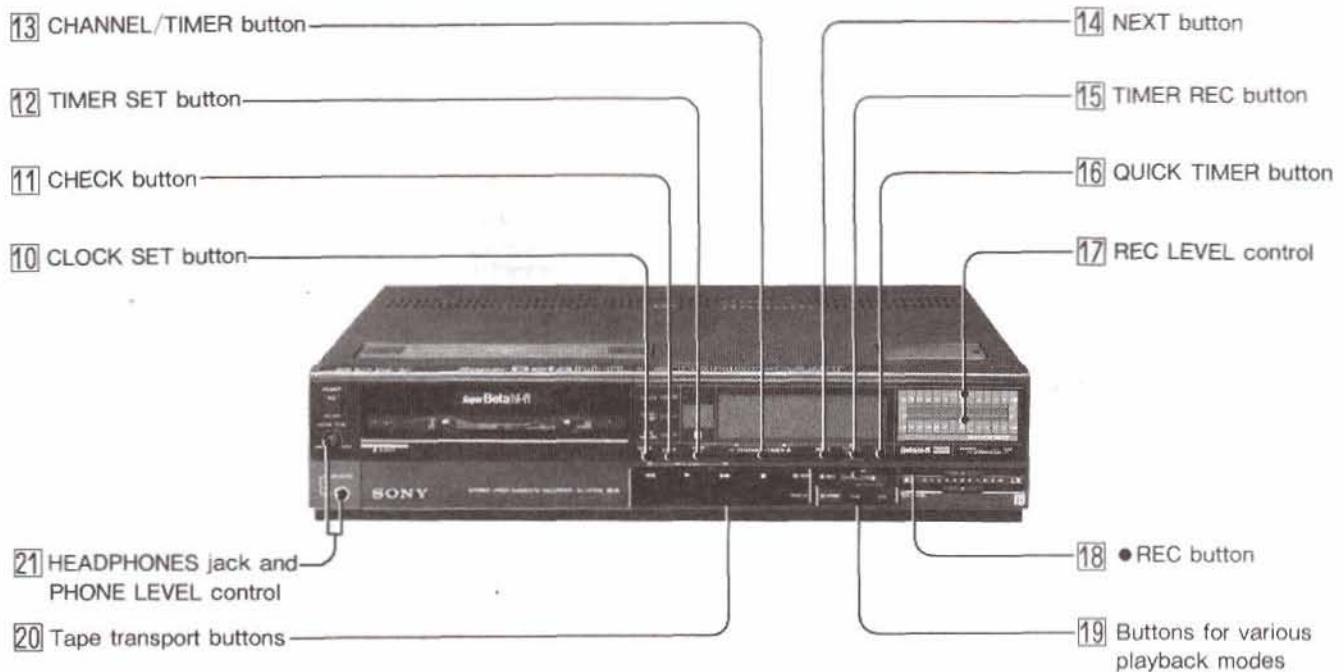
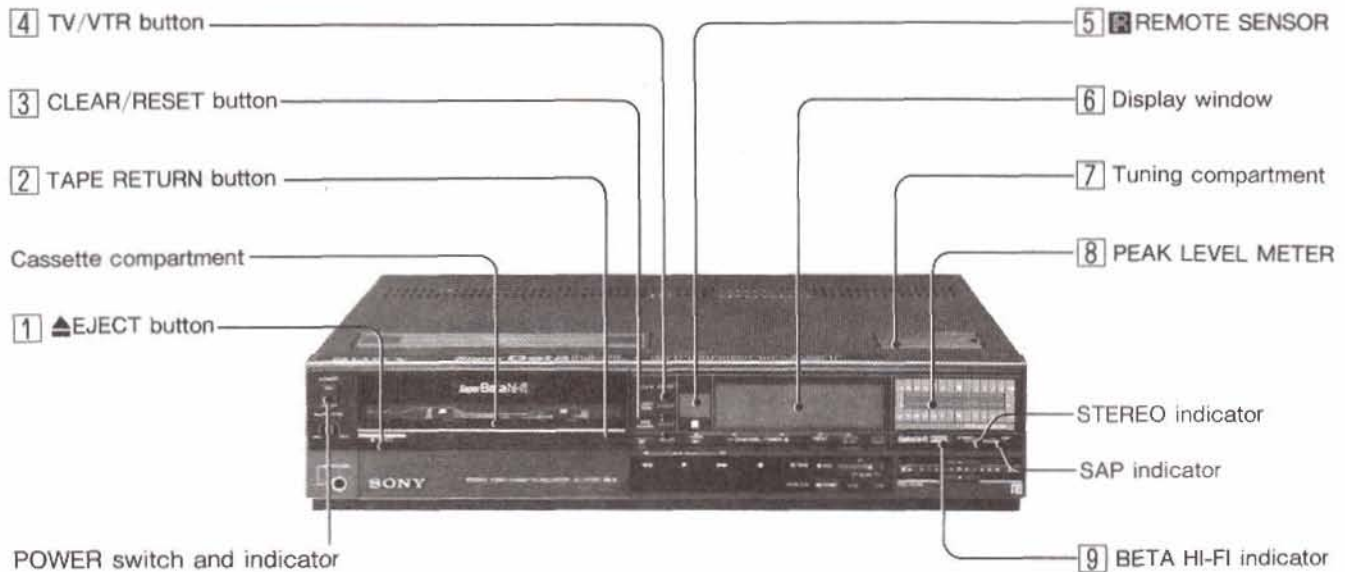
The Beta hi-fi audio signals are frequency-modulated and recorded on 2 channels, so that you can record a multichannel stereo program with sound quality far superior to that of the conventional audio recording.

Beta hi-fi recording pattern on the video tape



When the BETA HI-FI switch is set to ON, this recorder records audio signals on the video track (Beta hi-fi recording) and on the conventional audio track at the same time, so that these tapes can also be played back on any ordinary video cassette recorder without a Beta hi-fi system.

LOCATION AND FUNCTION OF CONTROLS



For details on the use of each control, refer to the pages indicated in the ●

1 ▲EJECT button

Press this button to eject the cassette.

2 TAPE RETURN button

In stop mode, press this button to advance or rewind the tape approximately to the counter "0:00:00s" point.

3 CLEAR/RESET button

Press this button to reset the time counter to "0:00:00s" and also to clear the timer setting.

4 TV/VTR button

Press this button to watch the program selected on the recorder. The "VTR" indication appears in the display window.

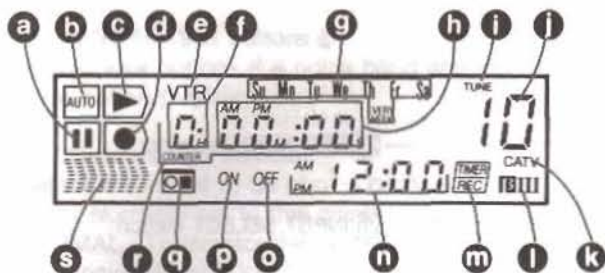
(The "VTR" indication appears automatically when the button is pressed.)

To watch a different TV program while recording another, press this button again. The "VTR" indication disappears.

5 REMOTE SENSOR

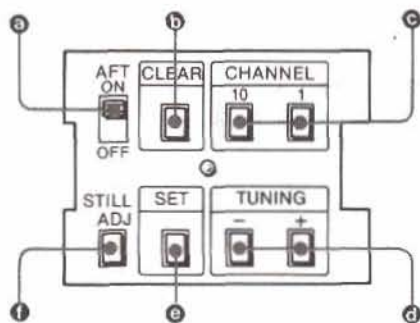
Detects the signals transmitted from the Remote Commander.

6 Display window



- a Lights during pause
- b Lights during auto play, tape return play or automatic cassette eject
- c Lights during playback
- d Lights during recording
- e VTR mode
- f Timer program position during timer setting
- g Day indicator
- h Turn-on time of the timer during timer setting
- i Lights during TV channel presetting
- j Channel number
- k Cable TV channel indicator
- l Tape speed indicator
- m Lights when TIMER REC ON/OFF or QUICK TIMER is pressed.
- n Clock display
During timer setting, the turn-off time is displayed.
- o Turn-off indicator
- p Turn-on indicator
- q Lights when a cassette is inside
- r Tape counter
- s Speed and direction indicator of the tape movement

7 Tuning compartment



- a AFT switch
- b CLEAR button
- c CHANNEL 10 and 1
- d TUNING button
- e SET button
- f STILL ADJ (adjust) button

8 PEAK LEVEL METER

This meter shows the peak input level of the right and left channels during Beta hi-fi recording.

9 BETA HI-FI indicator

Lights during recording with the BETA HI-FI switch at ON. When playing back a Beta hi-fi recorded tape, the indicator lights up regardless of the position of the BETA HI-FI switch.

10 CLOCK SET button

Press to start the setting of the current time.

11 CHECK button

Press to check the contents of the timer presettings.

12 TIMER SET button

Press to start the setting or resetting of the timer recording.

13 CHANNEL/TIMER (+/-) buttons

Press to select the channels and to set the clock or timer program.

14 NEXT button

Press to advance to the next item to be set during clock or timer setting.

15 TIMER REC button

Press to activate the timer recording.

16 QUICK TIMER button

Press this button to start the QUICK TIMER function.

17 REC LEVEL control

Adjust the recording level when the BETA HI-FI selector is set to ON.

18 REC button

Slide to the right to start the recording.

19 Buttons for various playback modes

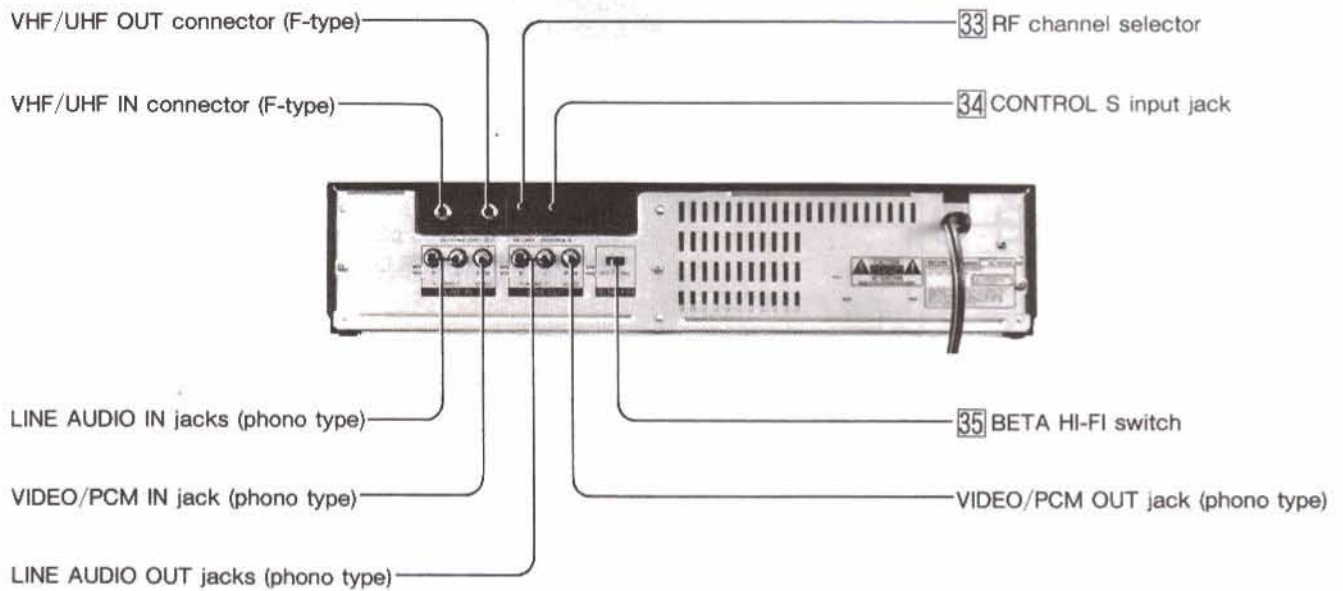
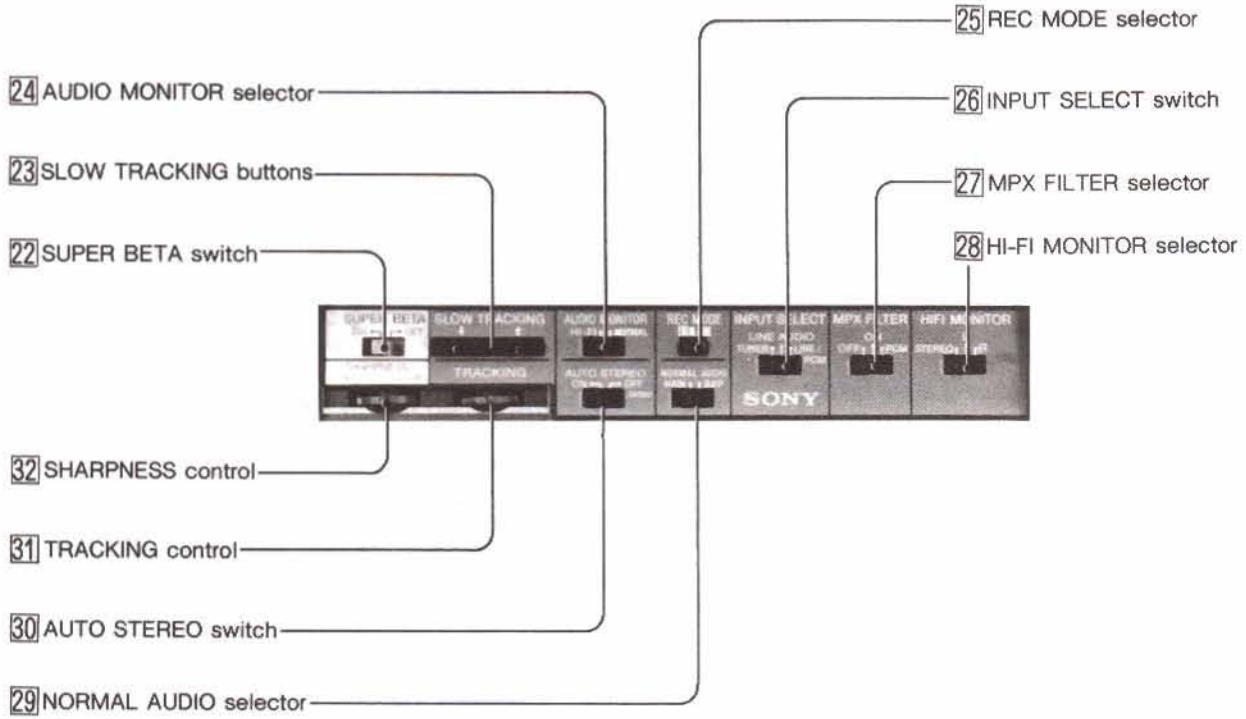
▢▢ FRAME, 1/10 SLOW, 1/5 SLOW

20 Tape transport buttons

◀ REW (rewind), ▶ PLAY, ▶▶ FF (fast forward), ■ STOP, ▢▢ / ▶▶ PAUSE/STILL

21 HEADPHONES jack and PHONE LEVEL control

Connect stereo headphones (with stereo phone jack) to the HEADPHONES jack. The volume can be controlled with the PHONE LEVEL control.



- 22 SUPER BETA switch ⑩**
Normally keep this switch at ON.
- 23 SLOW TRACKING buttons ⑪**
Press these buttons if a noise band appears in the slow motion playback.
- 24 AUDIO MONITOR selector**
Select the sound to be played back.
HI-FI : Normally set to this position.
NORMAL : To monitor the sound recorded on the conventional audio track
- 25 REC MODE selector ⑫**
Selects the recording speed.
- 26 INPUT SELECT switch**
Select the program to be recorded.
TUNER : For recording TV programs
LINE/PCM : For recording signals from the VIDEO/
PCM IN and LINE AUDIO IN
LINE AUDIO : For recording the sound from LINE
AUDIO IN and the picture of TV program on FM
simulcast recording
- 27 MPX FILTER selector**
MPX FILTER OFF : Normally set to this position.
MPX FILTER ON : For recording FM broadcast
programs.
(But if your FM tuner has an internal MPX filter, set
to OFF.)
PCM : For PCM recording
- 28 HI-FI MONITOR selector**
Select the channel (s) of the Beta hi-fi sound to be
played back.
STEREO : Normally set to this position
L : To monitor the L channel of a stereo program
R : To monitor the R channel of a stereo program
- 29 NORMAL AUDIO selector**
Select the sound to be recorded on the conventional
audio track. Normally set to MAIN. To record SAP
sound, set to SAP.
- 30 AUTO STEREO switch**
Normally set to ON. When the signal is weak on a
particular channel, set to OFF.
- 31 TRACKING control ⑬**
Turn this knob to obtain the best possible picture if
streaks or snow appears during playback.
- 32 SHARPNESS control ⑭**
Adjusts the sharpness of the picture if necessary.
Normally set the control at the center detent position.
- 33 RF channel selector**
Select the channel for the VCR program and the
output OUT from the VHF/UHF connector. Set the
selector to 3 CH or 4 CH, whichever is not active in
your area.
- 34 CONTROL S input jack (mini type) ⑮**
Connect to the CONTROL S output jack of other
Sony products for various systematic operations.
- 35 BETA HI-FI switch**
ON : Normally set to this position. Recording will be
done in Beta hi-fi system.
OFF : Set to this position to record only in the
conventional system.

HANDLING THE VIDEO CASSETTES

Before loading

The safety tab on the rear of the cassette should not be removed for recording. When a new recording is made on a pre-recorded cassette, the previous recording will be erased automatically.

To avoid erasing a recording

Break off the safety tab using a screwdriver or a similar object. The cassette will be ejected automatically even when you slide REC button to the right.



To re-record on a cassette which has its safety tab removed

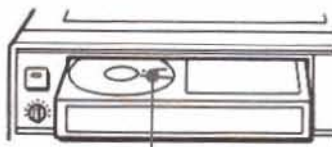
Cover the hole with a piece of plastic tape.



If you activate REC, QUICK TIMER, or TIMER REC ON/OFF, when the inserted cassette has its safety tab removed, **AUTO** indicator will appear in the indication window and the cassette will be automatically ejected.

On loading

Insert the cassette with the side that has the window up (you can see the tape through the window).



With the window to the left

Recording time available in each mode

By selecting the recording speed, **II** or **III**, with the REC MODE selector, you can decide the recording time.

Cassette used	II mode	III mode
L-125	30 min.	45 min.
L-250	1 hr.	1 hr. 30 min.
L-500	2 hr.	3 hr.
L-750	3 hr.	4 hr. 30 min.
L-830	3 hr. 20 min.	5 hr.

The playback speed is automatically set regardless of the REC MODE selector's position.

BASIC OPERATIONS

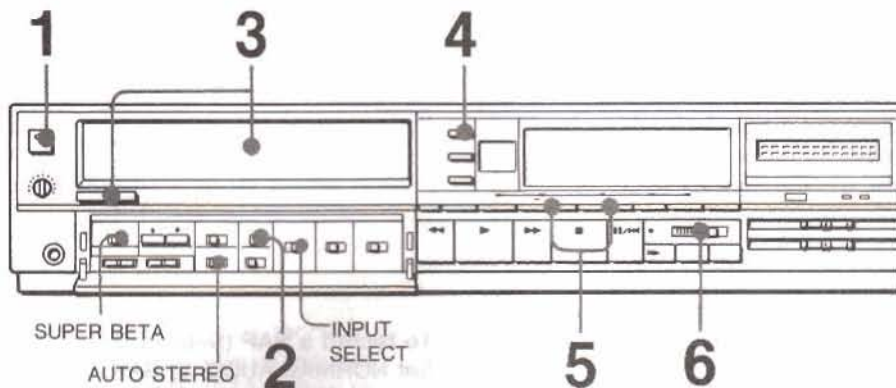
Make sure that you have finished all the connections and adjustments on page 23 through 30.

RECORDING TV PROGRAMS

Caution

Television programs, films, video tapes and other materials may be copyrighted. Unauthorized recording of such material may be contrary to the provisions of the copyright laws.

Also, use of this recorder with cable television transmission may require authorization from the cable television transmitter and/or program owner. Numbers in the illustration show the sequence of operation.



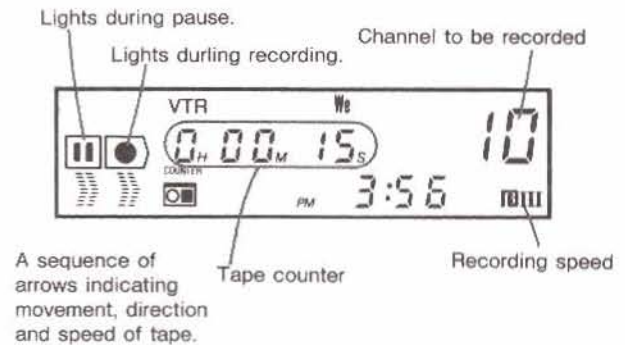
PREPARATION

- Check the positions of the selectors.
SUPER BETA → ON
AUTO STEREO → ON
INPUT SELECT → TUNER
BETA HIFI (on the rear) → ON
REC LEVEL → "5"
- Turn on the TV and select the channel for the recorder.

OPERATION

- 1 Turn on the power.
- 2 Select the REC MODE.
- 3 Insert a cassette.
- 4 Press TV/VTR to select the VTR mode.
- 5 Select the channel to be recorded with the + or - button.
- 6 Slide ● REC button to the right. The recording will begin.

Check in the window



To stop recording, press STOP ■.

When the tape reaches its end, it will be rewound to the beginning.

To eject the cassette, press ▲ EJECT.

To turn off the power, press POWER ON/OFF.

To stop the tape momentarily

Press PAUSE/STILL ■/▶. The TV program can still be seen on the TV, but the picture will not be recorded. To resume recording, press PAUSE/STILL ■/▶ again. To protect the video heads and the tape, the pause mode will be automatically released after about 8 minutes and recording will stop.

Note

The power can be automatically turned on by inserting a cassette without pressing POWER ON/OFF.

In case you want to record a tape which is to be played back on another recorder from the very beginning of the tape, run the tape for about 15 seconds before starting recording. Otherwise you may miss the starting point during playback on the other machine.

NOTE

ABOUT THE SUPER BETA SWITCH

Normally, keep this switch at the "ON" position to obtain high picture quality recordings and playback. Tapes recorded in other non-SuperBeta VCRs can be played on SuperBeta VCRs.

Tapes recorded in SuperBeta can be played on other non-SuperBeta VCRs: However, some over-modulation noise may appear in the picture during playback.

If you intend to play back on other non-SuperBeta VCRs, then set the SUPER BETA switch to "OFF" position when making your recordings.

TO START RECORDING FROM A PARTICULAR POINT

You can decide the starting point for recording while watching the playback picture or by searching for the point using the Betascan and Beta SkipScan (on page 12) functions.

- 1 Search for the point where you wish to start recording on the tape by playing back the tape or using the Betascan or the Beta SkipScan function.
- 2 Press ■/▶ PAUSE to stop the tape where you wish to start recording.
- 3 Slide REC to the right. The recorder will enter the recording pause mode and the picture selected by INPUT SELECT will appear on the monitor screen.
- 4 Press ■/▶ PAUSE to release the pause mode. Recording starts.

TO RECORD MULTICHANNEL TV SOUND (MTS) BROADCASTS (STEREOCASTS)

Make sure AUTO STEREO is set to ON.

In the years to come, an increasing number of programs will be broadcasted in stereo. Called Multichannel TV Sound or MTS, the new technology will greatly enhance TV viewing by bringing you programs with high fidelity stereo sound. MTS also provides for an extra channel called the Second Audio Program or SAP which broadcasters can use to transmit a second language for bilingual transmissions or any other sound track.

To record a stereo broadcast

Set BETA HI-FI switch on the rear panel to ON. When the STEREO indicator lights up, a stereo broadcast is being received. The recording procedure is the same as usual.



To record a SAP (Second Audio Program) broadcast

Set NORMAL AUDIO to SAP. The SAP indicator will light up. If recording is made when there is a SAP broadcast, the SAP sound will be recorded on the conventional audio track while the MAIN sound is recorded on the video track in Beta hi-fi. To listen to the SAP sound, set AUDIO MONITOR to NORMAL.



To record a MAIN broadcast only

Set NORMAL AUDIO to MAIN. The MAIN sound will be recorded on the video track and the conventional audio track.

Note

- When a SAP sound is not to be recorded, be sure to set NORMAL AUDIO to MAIN. If it is set to SAP and there is no SAP broadcast, no sound is recorded on the conventional audio track.
- You may find more noise in the reproduction of the audio of SAP than in that of the main sound.

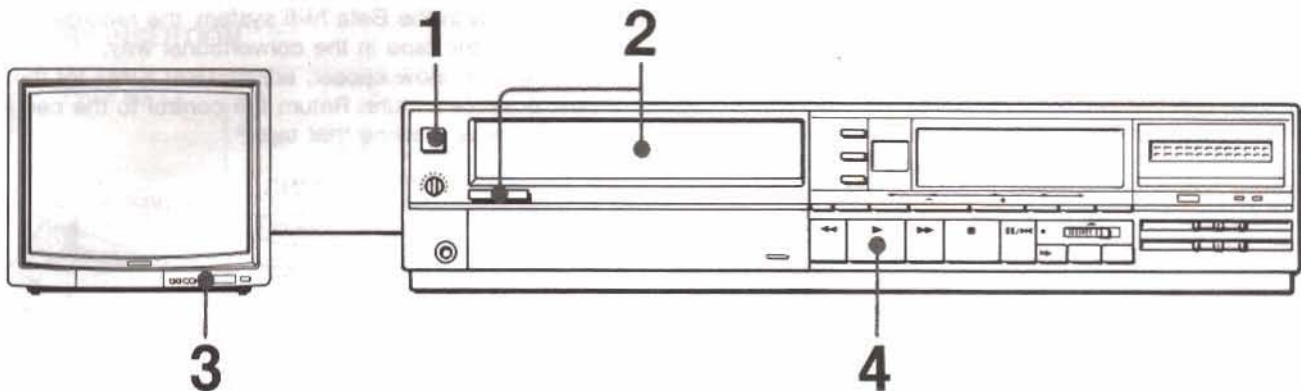
TO VIEW ONE TV PROGRAM WHILE RECORDING ANOTHER

Press TV/VTR so that the VTR indicator disappears from the display window. Select the channel you want to view on the TV.



PLAYBACK

Numbers in the illustration show the sequence of operation.



- 1 Turn on the power.
- 2 Insert a cassette.
- 3 Turn on the TV and select the channel for the video recorder.
- 4 Press ► PLAY.

Note

- If you are playing back a tape that was recorded on another VCR, noise (if any) in the picture may be eliminated by setting the SUPER BETA switch to OFF. Normally, keep this switch at ON.
- To change to channel 3 or 2 on your TV from the channel on which you have been viewing something from the video recorder, be sure to press TV/VTR first and then change to channel 3 or 2 on your TV. If TV/VTR is pressed after channel 3 or 2 is set on your TV, you might not get a picture. In this case, change your TV channel to another channel and then come back to channel 3 or 2.

AUTO PLAY/STOP

To play back a tape from the beginning of the tape after rewinding

Press ► PLAY while holding ◀◀ REW depressed. After the tape is completely rewound, it will be automatically played back.

Check in the window



During playback, the recorded speed mode is automatically selected and the selected speed indicator appears on the indication window.

TO SELECT THE MONITOR SOUND

Playback of Beta hi-fi stereo sound programs

Set the AUDIO MONITOR selector to HI-FI and the HI-FI MONITOR to STEREO.

When the recorder is connected to a Component TV, a stereo system or stereo headphones, you can enjoy stereo sound reproduction.

When a conventional (monaural) TV is connected, the sound of the left and right channels are mixed so that monaural sound comes from the TV speaker.

To select the left or right channel of stereo programs

Set the AUDIO MONITOR selector to HI-FI and the HI-FI MONITOR selector to L or R.

Select the position L or R to play back the channel you wish to listen to.

Playback of SAP sound

To listen to the SAP sound that was recorded with the NORMAL AUDIO selector set to SAP, set the AUDIO MONITOR selector to NORMAL.

VARIOUS PLAYBACK MODES

BETASCAN

Viewing the picture at a fast speed to find a particular scene

Keep pressing ►► FF or ◀◀ REW during playback.

When you release the button, the normal playback will be resumed.

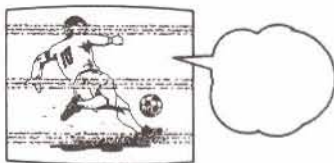
BETA SKIPSCAN

Viewing the picture momentarily during fast-forward or rewind

Keep pressing ►► FF or ◀◀ REW during fast-forward or rewind mode.

When you release the button, the fast-forward or rewind mode will be resumed.

Streaks will appear and sound will be muted in the Betascan and Beta SkipScan pictures.



FREEZE PICTURE

Press PAUSE/STILL ■■■/▶▶ during playback (in normal or slow mode). The sound is muted.

Press PAUSE/STILL ■■■/▶▶ again or press ► PLAY to resume normal playback.

To protect the video heads and the tape, the pause mode will be automatically released after about 8 minutes and **playback will be resumed.**

WHEN YOU PLAY BACK A TAPE RECORDED ON ANOTHER VCR

- If the VCR on which the tape was recorded is not equipped with the Beta hi-fi system, the recorder will play back the tape in the conventional way.
- If streaks or snow appear, adjust TRACKING for the best possible picture. Return the control to the center position after viewing that tape.



- To get a sharp picture, turn SHARPNESS toward SHARP.



STOP-ACTION ADVANCE PICTURE

Press FRAME ■■▶ in freeze picture mode. Press PAUSE/STILL ■■■/▶▶ again or press ► PLAY to resume normal playback.

SLOW MOTION PICTURE

Press SLOW 1/10 (or 1/5), to obtain a picture with 1/10 (or 1/5) of the normal speed. The sound is muted. Press ► PLAY to resume normal playback.

TO OBTAIN BETTER PLAYBACK PICTURE

— in freeze, stop-action advance or slow motion picture mode

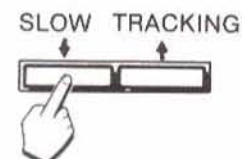
● If the picture seems to shake...

Set the VCR to the **freeze picture mode**, and then press the STILL ADJ button in the tuning compartment until the picture stabilizes. As long as the same TV or color monitor is used, readjustment should not be necessary.

● If a noise band appears on the screen...

Set the VCR to the **slow motion picture mode**, and then move the noise band by pressing the SLOW TRACKING ↑ or ↓ button.

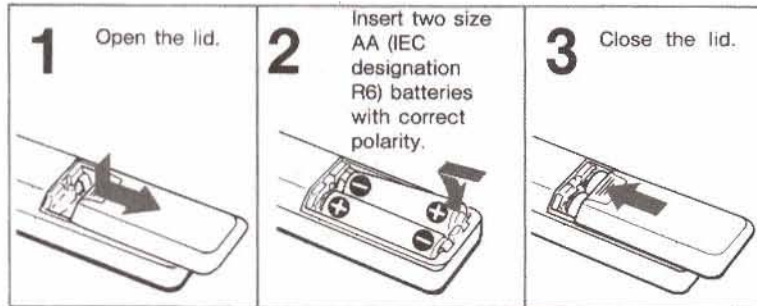
Readjustment may be necessary for the tapes recorded on other VCRs.



REMOTE CONTROL OPERATION

You can control almost all the functions of this video cassette recorder from your armchair using the supplied Remote Commander.

BATTERY INSERTION



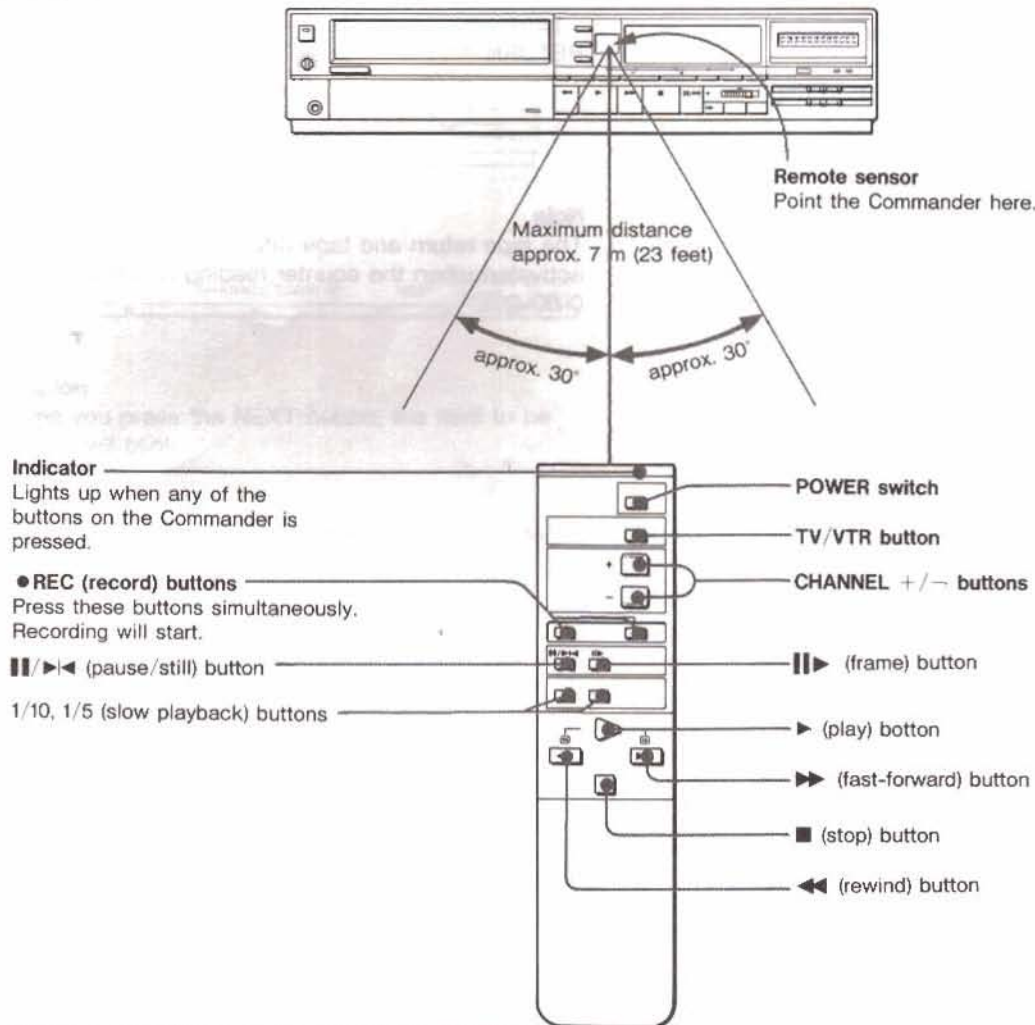
Battery life

In normal operation, batteries will last for about six months.

When the batteries are exhausted, the indicator will not light when the buttons on the Commander are pressed.

If the Remote Commander is not to be used for a long period of time, remove the batteries to avoid possible damage caused by battery leakage.

OPERATION



The buttons on the Commander except the ● REC buttons will function the same as the buttons on the recorder with the similar name or mark. The auto play cannot be activated with the ◀◀ and ▶▶ buttons.

USE OF THE TAPE COUNTER

The tape counter indicates the approximate running time of the tape and the relative position of programs on the tape.

TO INDEX THE TAPE CONTENTS

Before starting recording or playback, press CLEAR/RESET to set the counter to "0h00m00s". By noting the counter reading at the desired point, you can easily find that point later by referring to the counter. Use the label on the cassette to list the programs and their counter readings.

CLEAR/
RESET



Notes

- The counter reading is automatically reset to zero when a cassette is newly inserted.
- The counter reading will be retained in the memory even after the power is turned off, as long as the cassette is in the cassette compartment.
- The counter will not advance during any portion of a tape that is blank or unrecorded. So the counter can be used to find unrecorded sections on a tape.

TAPE RETURN/TAPE RETURN PLAY

To stop the tape at a particular point or play back from a particular point

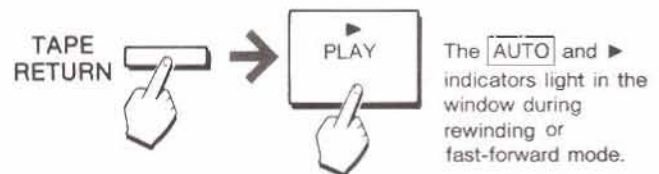
- 1 During recording or playback, press CLEAR/RESET at the point you want to locate later.
- 2 When recording or playback is finished, stop the tape and press TAPE RETURN.

The tape will be rewound or advanced close to the point where the counter reads "0h00m00s".



To start playback automatically from the "0h00m00s" point

Press ► PLAY after pressing TAPE RETURN.






Note

The tape return and tape return play cannot be activated when the counter reading is within $\pm 0h00m29s$.

TIMER-ACTIVATED RECORDING

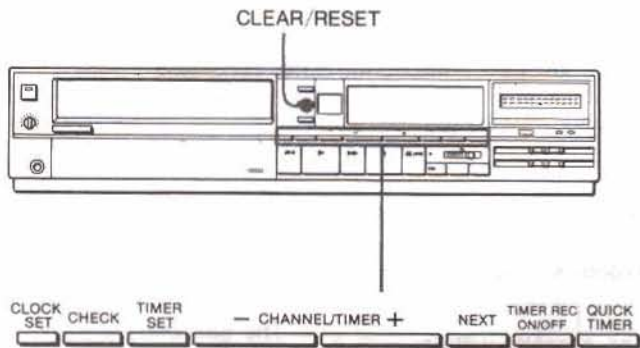
Up to six events can be set to be recorded on a certain day or everyday within seven days, or on the same day every week.

BEFORE SETTING THE TIMER

- Make sure that the clock (day and time) is set correctly.
- Be sure a cassette with a safety tab is inserted in the compartment. Check with the  indicator in the window.
- Select the recording tape speed. Check with the  or  indicator in the window.

SETTING THE TIMER

Suppose you want to make a recording of channel 6 from 7:10 to 11:15 on Friday evening.



NEXT button

Every time you press the NEXT button, the item to be preset next will blink.

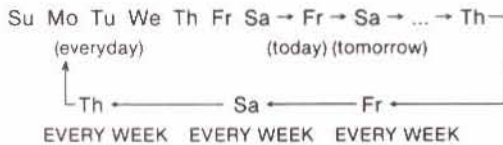
+/- buttons

To set the day of the week, the time and the channel, press the + button to advance, and the - button to go back.

Day indication

By pressing the + button, the day indication changes as follows:

Ex. Today is Friday.



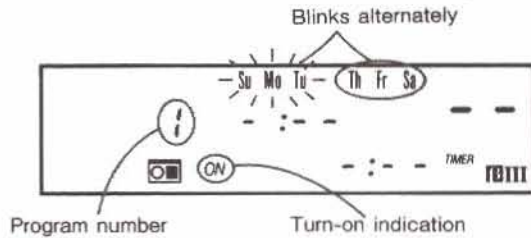
To record at the same time every day, select "Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa".

To record at the same time and day every week, select the desired day indication with "EVERY WEEK".

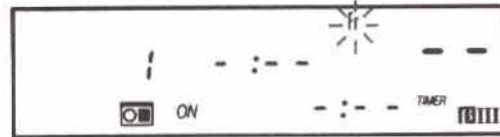
1 Set the positions of the selectors correctly as on page 9.

2 Press TIMER SET.

The program number (up to 6) appears. "1" indicates that you are making the first timer setting.

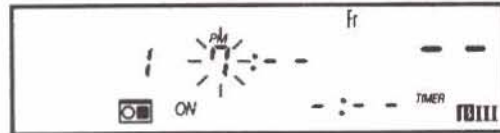


3 Set the day with the + or - button.

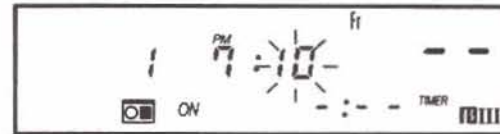


4 Press NEXT and set the turn-on hour with the + or - button.

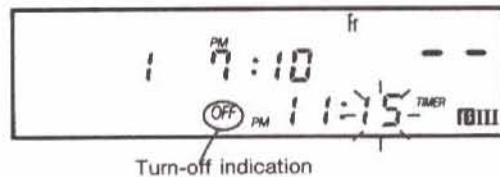
Make sure that AM or PM is properly set.
AM 12:00 = midnight
PM 12:00 = noon



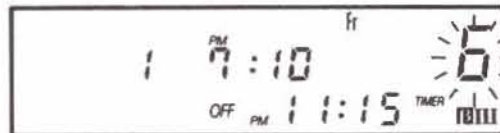
5 Press NEXT and set the minute with the + or - button.



6 Press NEXT and set the turn-off time as in steps 4 and 5.



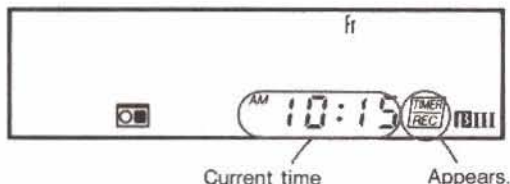
7 Press NEXT and set the channel to be recorded with the + or - button.



- 8 Press NEXT.
The tape counter and the current time will reappear.


To preset another program, press TIMER SET again and repeat steps 3 to 8. Up to 6 programs can be preset.

- 9 Press TIMER REC ON/OFF.
The power will be turned off and the recorder will enter the standby mode.



Recording will start at the preset time and will automatically stop when the recording is completed. The memory of the program except everyday and every week setting will be erased and the program positions preset in the timer will advance one by one.

NOTICE:


ONCE THE  INDICATOR HAS LIT UP, only the functions of CHECK and TIMER REC ON/OFF on the recorder can be activated. To turn on the power again for the usual manual operations, press TIMER REC ON/OFF again so that the indicator turns off.

BEFORE THE TIMER-ACTIVATED RECORDING STARTS

To check the timer settings

Press CHECK. Every time you press CHECK, each program will be displayed.


To change the settings

- 1 Press TIMER REC ON/OFF. The  indicator turns off.
- 2 Press CHECK to select the program to be changed.
- 3 Press TIMER SET.
- 4 Press NEXT until the item to be changed blinks.
- 5 Change the setting with the + or - button.
- 6 Press NEXT so that the tape counter and the current time appear.
- 7 Press TIMER REC ON/OFF again to reactivate the timer.

To record the entire tape

Set the turn-off time to exactly the same time as the turn-on time. Recording will continue to the end of the tape.

To erase the memory of a particular program

- 1 Press TIMER REC ON/OFF. The  indicator turns off.
- 2 Press CHECK to select the program to be erased.
- 3 Press CLEAR/RESET. The memory of the program will be eliminated.
- 4 If other programs have been preset for recording, press TIMER REC ON/OFF again to reactivate the timer.

DURING RECORDING

To stop during the timer recording

Press TIMER REC ON/OFF. The recording will stop and the power will be turned off.

When the tape ends during timer recording

The tape stops but the tape will not be rewound to the beginning.

NOTES ON TIMER RECORDING

Troubles when TIMER REC is pressed

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| The cassette will be ejected automatically. | ➡ | The cassette inserted has the safety tab removed. |
| TIMER REC does not appear in the window. | ➡ | No cassette is inserted. The tape is at its end. |

QUICK TIMER RECORDING

Use this function to begin recording a program immediately. You can start timer recording just by pressing QUICK TIMER. The recording duration can be set for up to 5 hours by 30 minutes. You can also use this function to stop the non-timer recording by presetting the recording duration.

TO USE QUICK TIMER FROM THE TAPE STOP MODE

Make sure that the cassette is inserted.

1 Press QUICK TIMER.

The power will be turned on.



Cassette is inserted.

Channel previously selected

2 Choose the channel to be recorded with the + or - button.

If you do not advance to the next step within 30 seconds. The power will be turned off.

3 Press QUICK TIMER so that the recording starts.

Now decide the recording duration.



Every time you press QUICK TIMER, the recording duration indication changes as follows:

0:30 → 1:00 → 1:30 → 2:00.....5:00 → 0:00

30 minutes one hour one and a half hour two hours five hours zero hour

When the recording starts, the duration indication decreases minute by minute to 0:00 and the power will be turned off automatically about 30 seconds after the recording has finished.

TO USE QUICK TIMER WHILE RECORDING

By pressing QUICK TIMER, you can set the duration so that the recording stops and power turns off after the preset duration.

Once the quick timer recording has started

Only the following function buttons can be activated:

QUICK TIMER.....to change recording duration

TIMER REC.....to interrupt quick timer recording

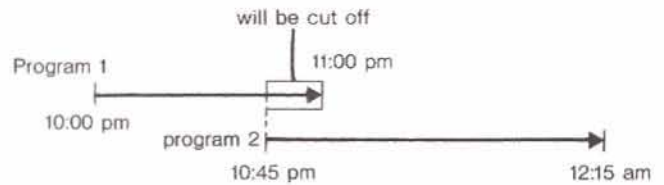
PAUSE.....to stop quick timer recording momentarily

CHECK.....to check timer programs preset

SPECIFIC NOTES ON TIMER-ACTIVATED RECORDINGS

When the presettings of your timer-activated recordings overlap

There will be no error indication to inform you of the overlap. Even if there is an overlap, a recording will be made.



The recording of program 2 will begin before program 1 is finished.

If a power interruption occurs during timer recording If the clock shows "AM 12:00" and blinks

When the recorder was in the standby mode, all the timer settings is erased. Reset the clock and timer setting.

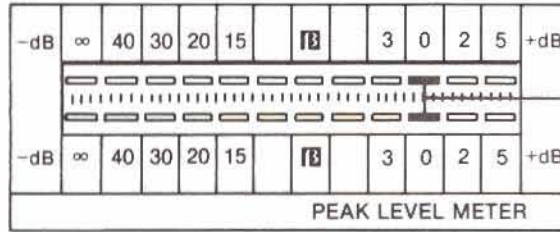
When the timer-recording was activated, the recording will stop.

ADVANCED OPERATIONS

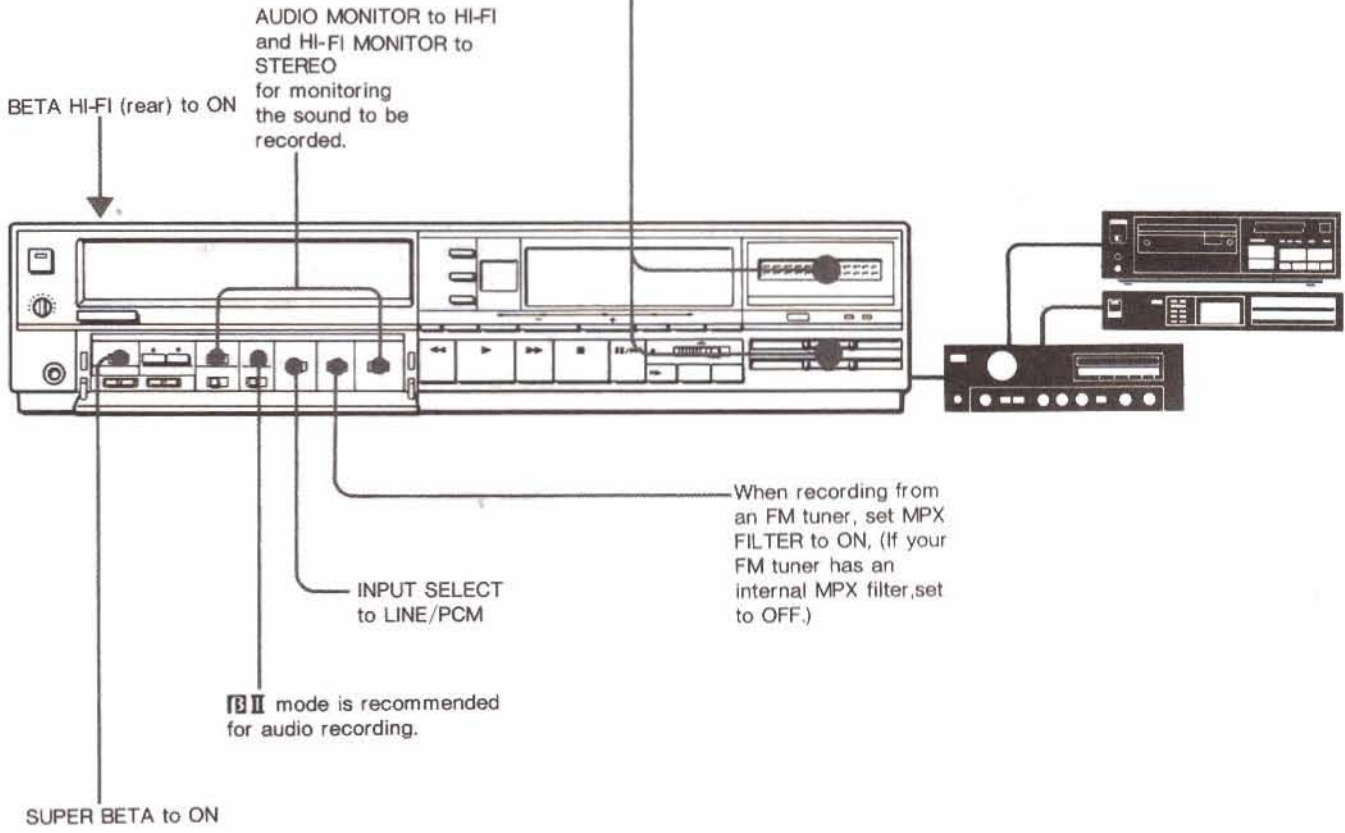
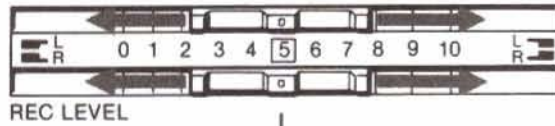
BETA HI-FI AUDIO RECORDING

RECORDING FROM YOUR AUDIO SYSTEM

To connect the VCR to your audio system, see page 27.
Set the selectors as shown below. To start recording, insert a cassette and slide REC to the right.



Manually adjust the recording level. Set REC LEVEL so that the first red element lights up only at the highest signal level.

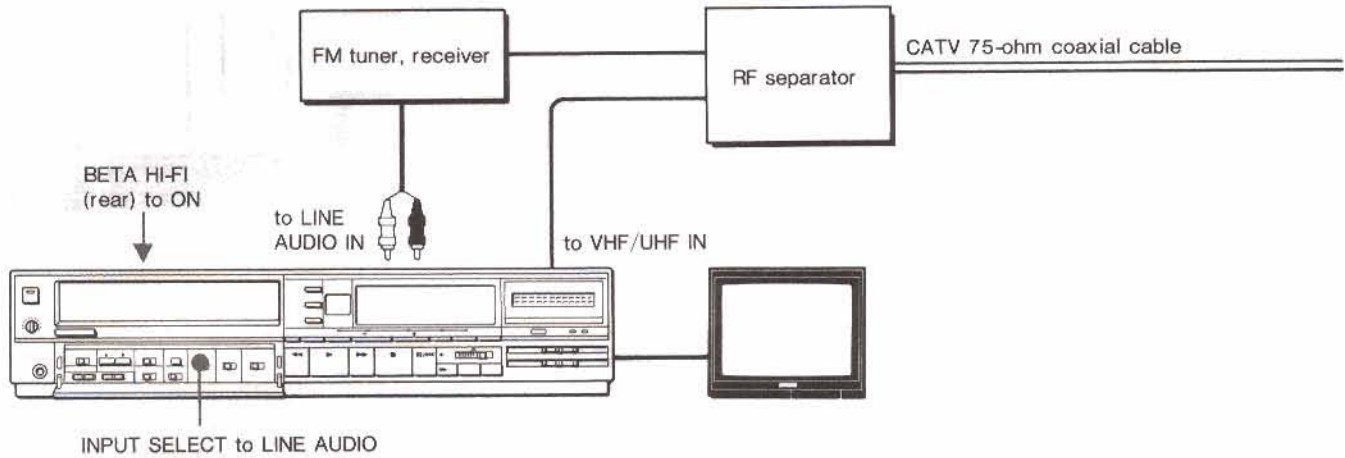


FM SIMULCAST RECORDING

By connecting an FM stereo tuner to the LINE AUDIO IN jacks besides the cable TV cable connecting, you can record a cable TV program with stereo sound, such as MTV (music TV), whose audio signals are divided

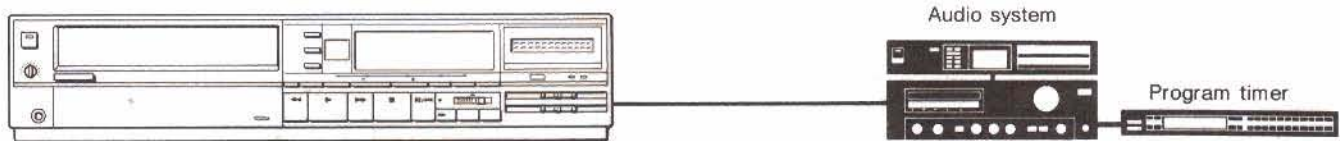
into the FM tuner from the cable.

For FM simulcast recording, set INPUT SELECT to **LINE AUDIO**. Only the sound from the FM tuner is recorded.



TIMER-ACTIVATED FM RECORDING

Use an optional program timer to turn the audio system on and off.

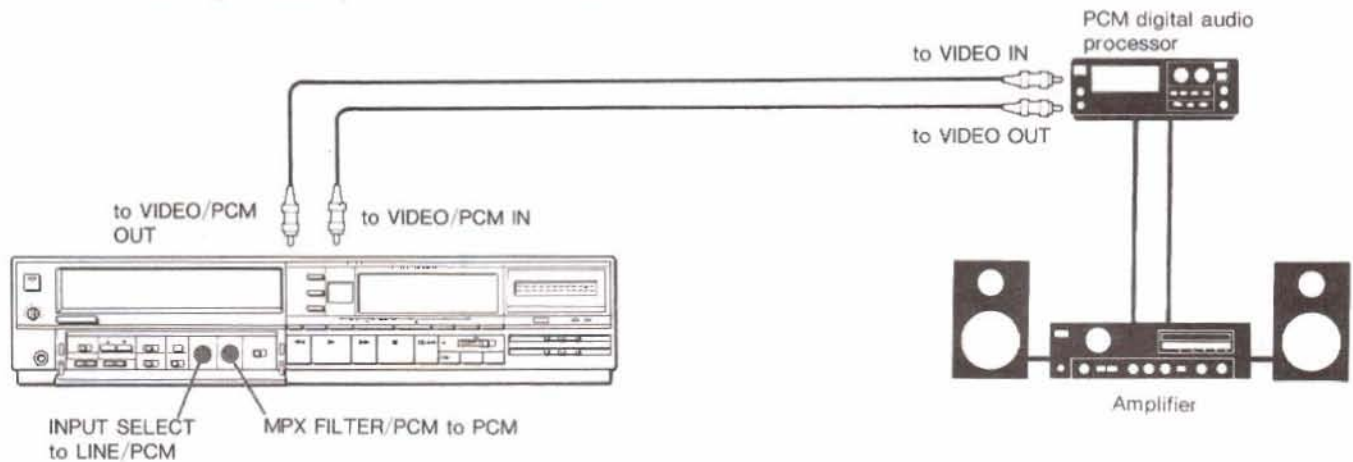


The setting of the controls is the same as in "RECORDING FROM YOUR AUDIO SYSTEM". Set the recorder's timer and a program timer to the

same turn-on and turn-off time. The settings on the recorder's timer are the same as in "TIMER-ACTIVATED RECORDING" on page 15.

PCM RECORDING AND PLAYBACK

Connect a PCM digital audio processor as shown below.



For PCM recording, set INPUT SELECT to **LINE/PCM** and MPX FILTER/PCM to **PCM**. For optimum results, use a video cassette with a model number of L-500 or below (L-250, L-125, etc.) and select tape speed **II**. For details, refer to the instruction manual furnished with the digital audio processor.

Note

If you intend to playback on a VCR with the SuperBeta switch set to "OFF" or on other non-SuperBeta VCRs, set the SuperBeta switch to "OFF" when making your PCM recordings. Otherwise, the sound may be muted.

CAMERA RECORDING

When connecting a Sony color video camera, the use of the Sony HVA-220 ac adaptor is required. For details on connections, refer to the instruction manual furnished with the AC adaptor.

Note

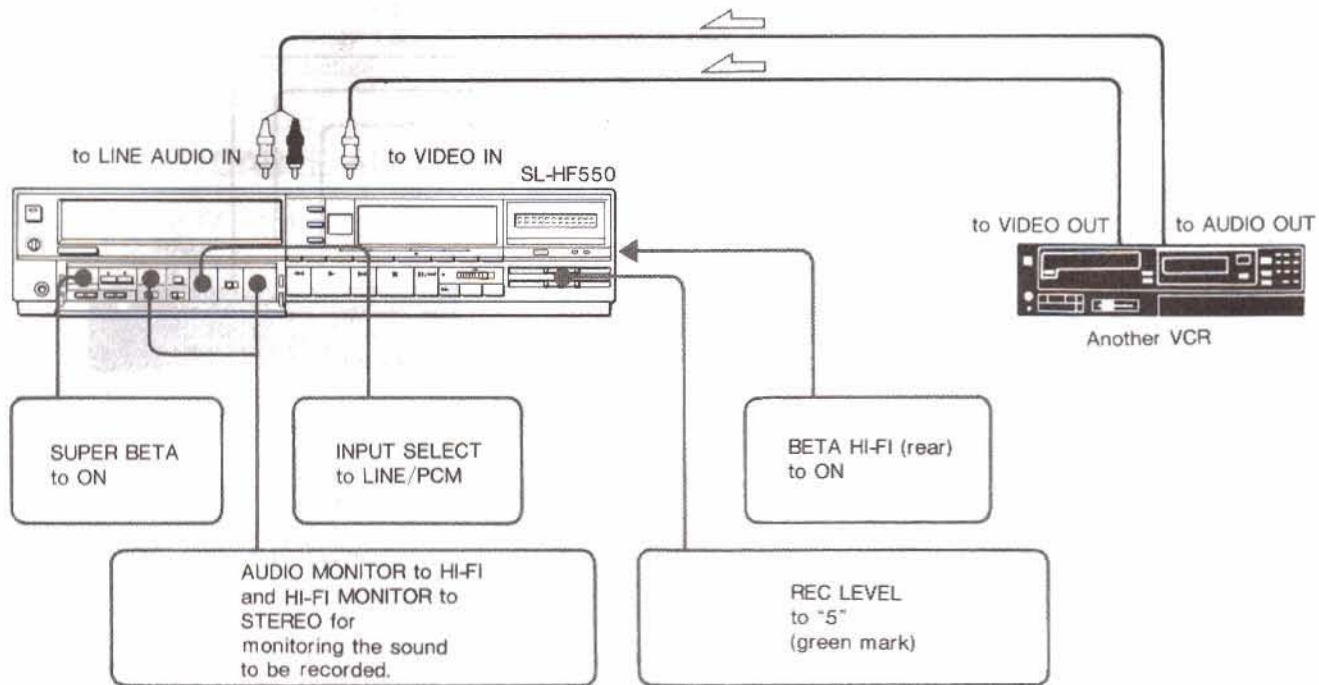
The camera must conform to American TV (EIA) standards.

EDITING A TAPE

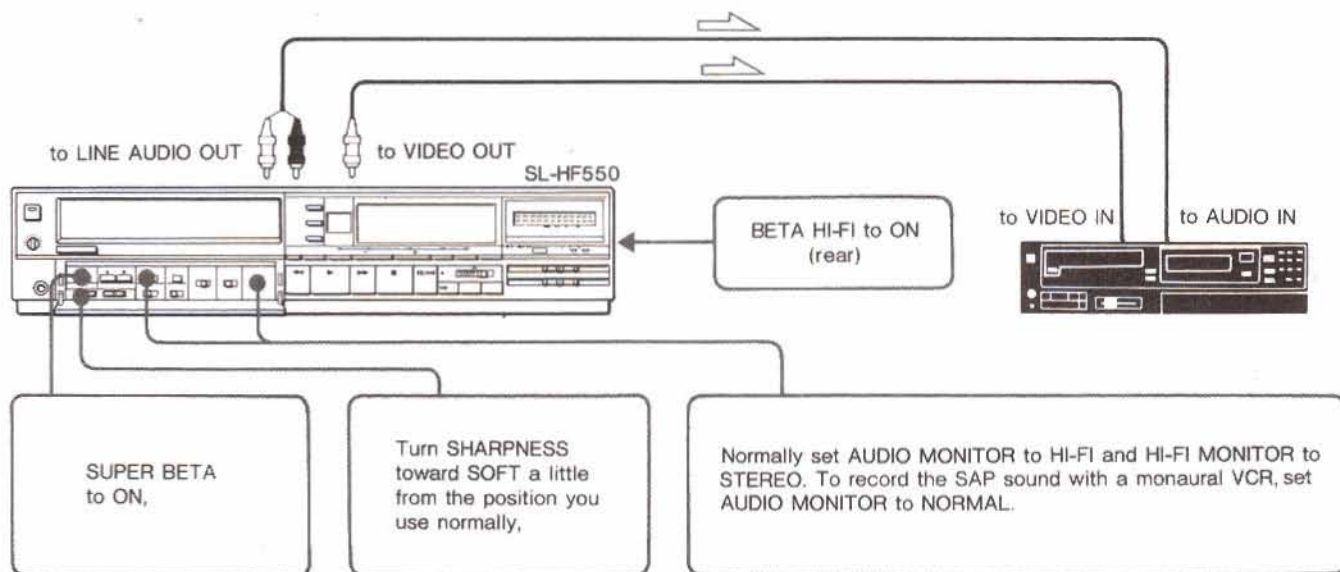
To edit a home movie tape, you need two video cassette recorders.

To start recording, set the VCR for playback in the playback mode, then press the record button on the other VCR.

To edit a home movie tape from another VCR to the SL-HF550



To edit a home movie tape from the SL-HF550 to another VCR



CAUTION

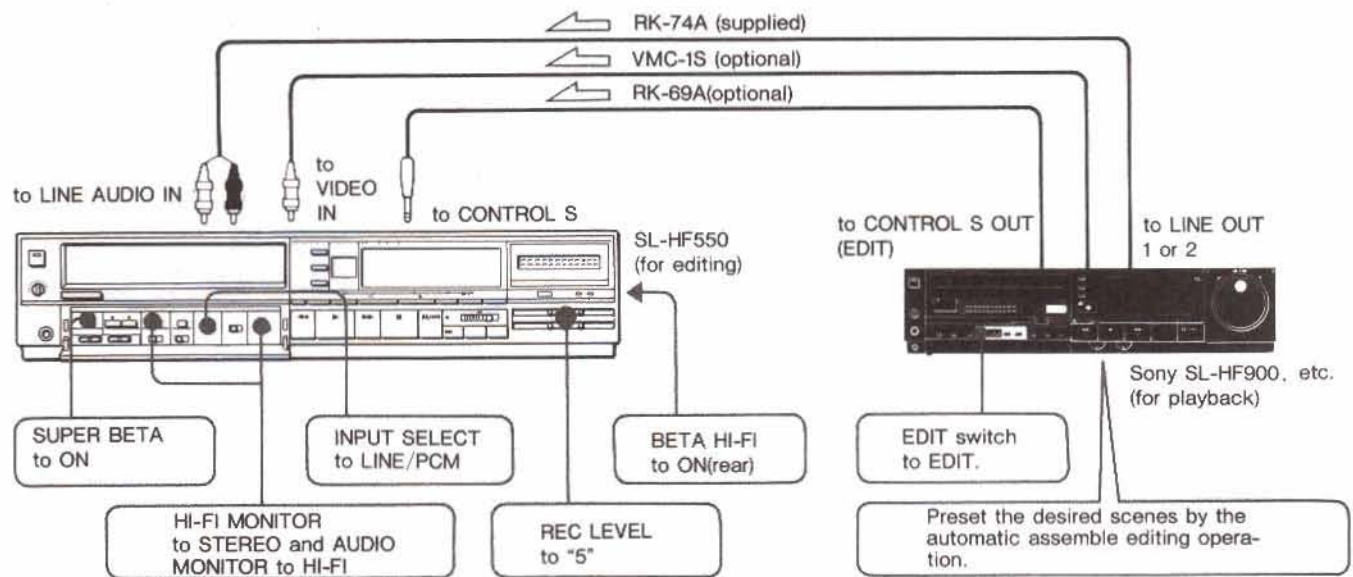
Television programs, films, video tapes and other materials may be copyrighted.

Unauthorized duplication of such material may be contrary to the provisions of the copyright laws.

TO EDIT FROM A VCR EQUIPPED WITH THE CONTROL S (EDIT) OUTPUT

Only the particular scenes preset on the playback VCR will be edited (automatic assemble editing). Recording start/stop on the SL-HF550 can be activated in

synchronization with playback start/stop on the playback VCR.



To start editing, set the SL-HF550 in recording mode and then follow the instruction manual of the playback VCR for the automatic assemble editing.

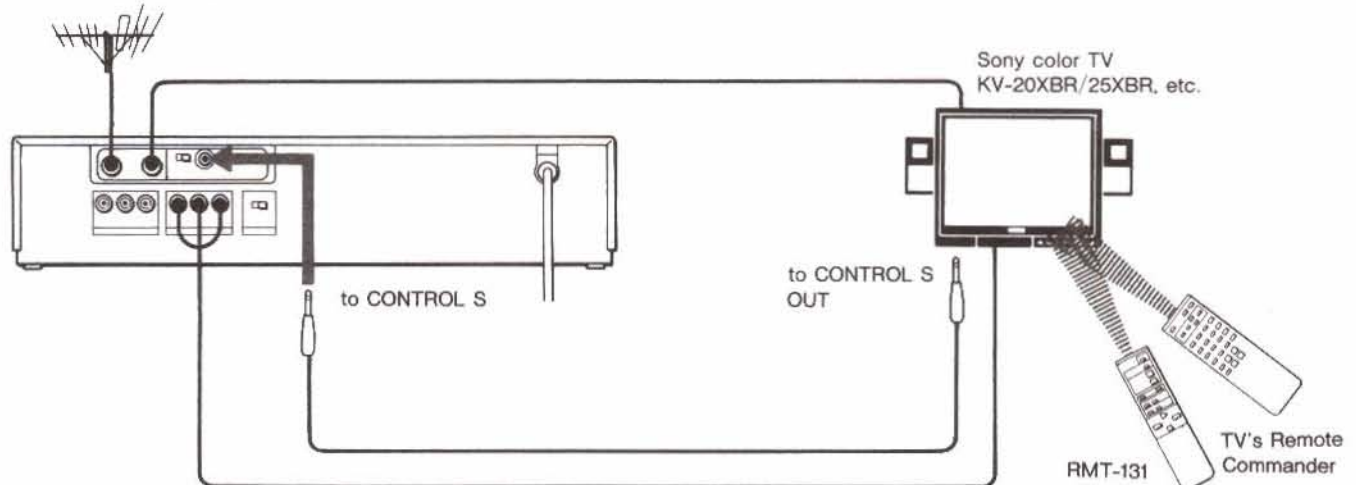
- The optional RM-E100/E100V video editing controller allows easier editing between two VCRs.
- The required connecting cords may differ depending on VCRs. Refer to the instruction manual of the VCR.

Note

Avoid repetition of editing tapes, as the picture and tone quality will be impaired noticeably for newly edited tapes.

Use of the CONTROL S input jack

If this jack is connected to the CONTROL(S) OUT jack of a Sony color TV or TV tuner, this recorder can be controlled by pointing the supplied RMT-131 Remote Commander toward the remote sensor on the color TV or TV tuner.



CONNECTIONS

Before making connections

- Turn off the TV.
- Do not connect the ac power cord until all the connections of the video recorder and the TV have been completed.
- Make the connections firmly. Loose connections may cause a distorted picture.

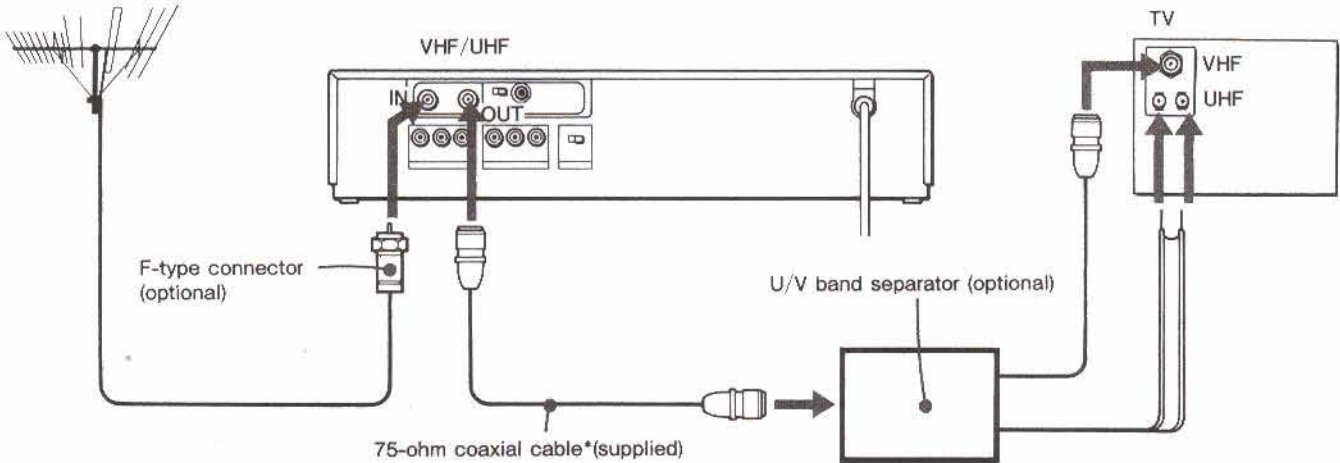
ANTENNA/CABLE AND TV CONNECTION

Disconnect the TV antenna cables from the TV receiver and connect them to the recorder. Then connect the recorder and the TV.

Combination VHF/UHF antenna

Most combination antennas are equipped with a U/V band separator (signal splitter). Take off the separator and connect the cable directly to the recorder.

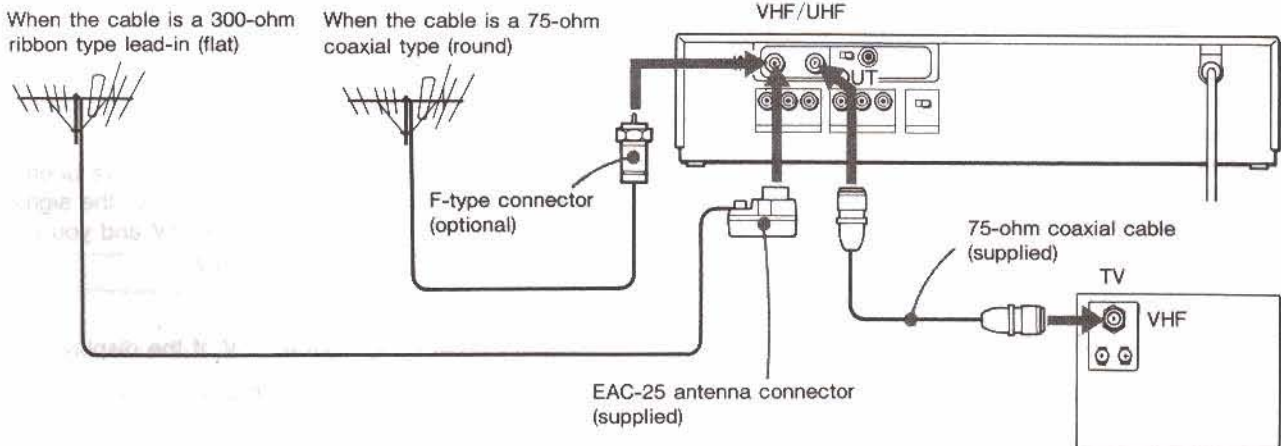
Use the removed separator to connect the recorder and the TV.



If you need a separator or a complete antenna system, see your Sony dealer or a qualified technician.

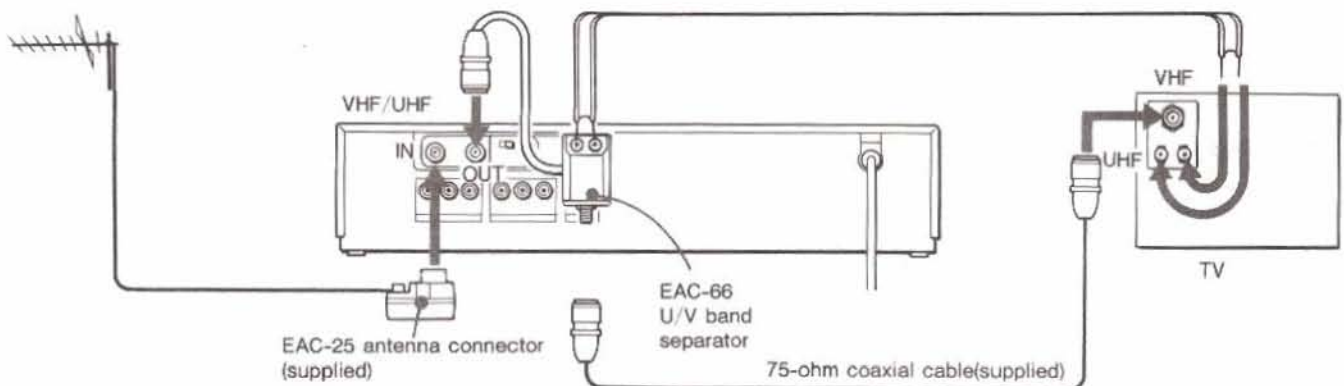
*Use an optional RFC-8 extension cable, 8m (25 ft) long, if the supplied 75-ohm coaxial cable is not long enough.

VHF antenna



UHF antenna

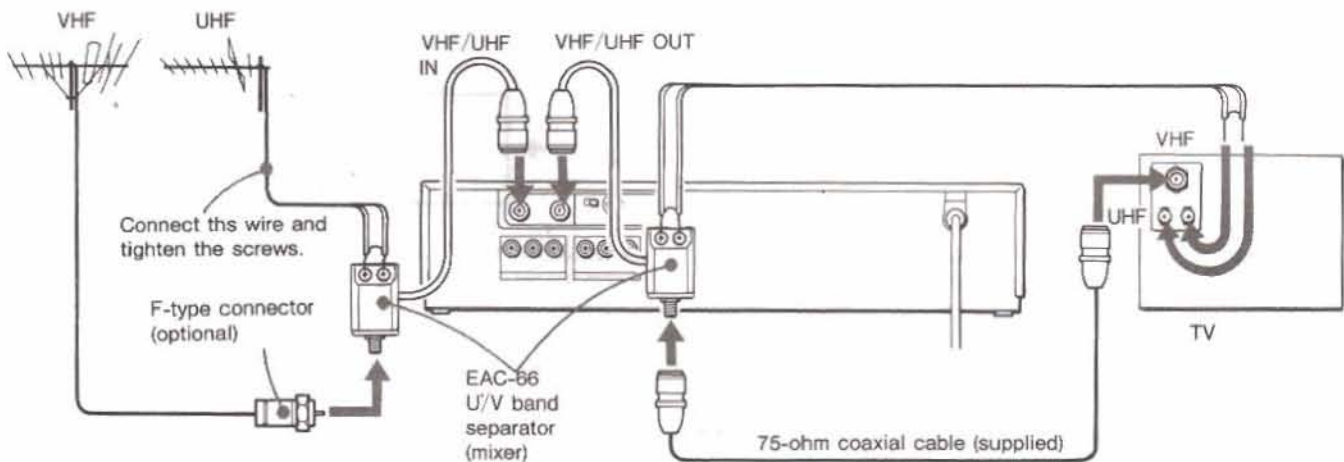
- 1 Attach an optional EAC-66 U/V band separator to the VHF/UHF OUT connector of the recorder.
- 2 Connect the separator to the VHF and UHF antenna terminals of the TV.



When both VHF and UHF antennas are connected

- 1 Attach an optional EAC-66 U/V band separator (mixer) to the VHF/UHF IN connector of the recorder.
- 2 Connect the antennas to the U/V band separator.
- 3 Attach another optional U/V band separator to the VHF/UHF OUT connector of the recorder.
- 4 Connect it to the VHF and UHF antenna terminals of the TV.

When a TV has a 75-ohm UHF/VHF antenna terminal
Easy connection of the recorder to the TV can be made with a supplied 75-ohm coaxial cable regardless of the types of antenna.



Caution

Connections between the recorder VHF/UHF OUT connector and the antenna terminals of a TV receiver should be made only as shown in these instructions.

Failure to do so may result in operation that violates the regulation of the Federal Communications Commission regarding the use and operation of rf devices.

Never connect the output of the recorder to an antenna or make simultaneous (parallel) antenna and recorder connection at the antenna terminals of your receiver.

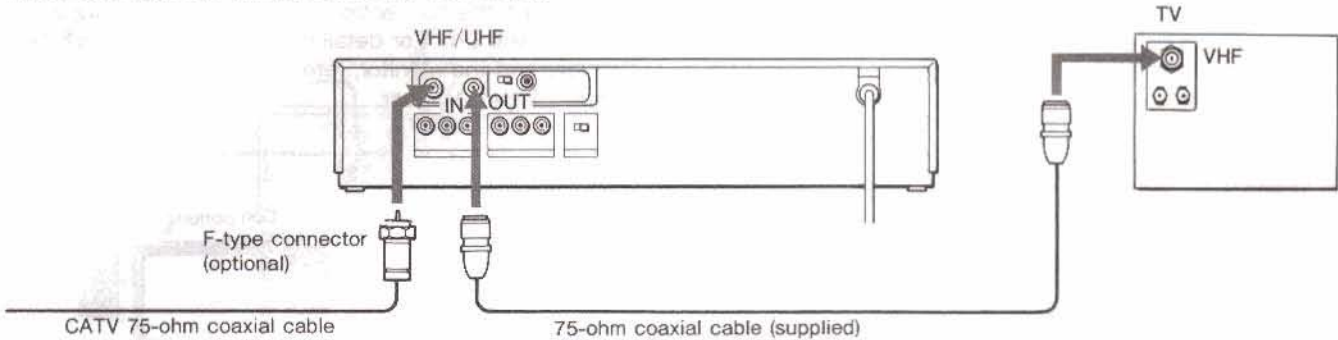
Once the connections explained above have been made, the antenna TV signals, as well as the signal from the recorder, will be fed to the TV and you can view TV programs in the usual way.

Note

Keep the VCR away from the TV, if the display or sound is affected.

CATV cable

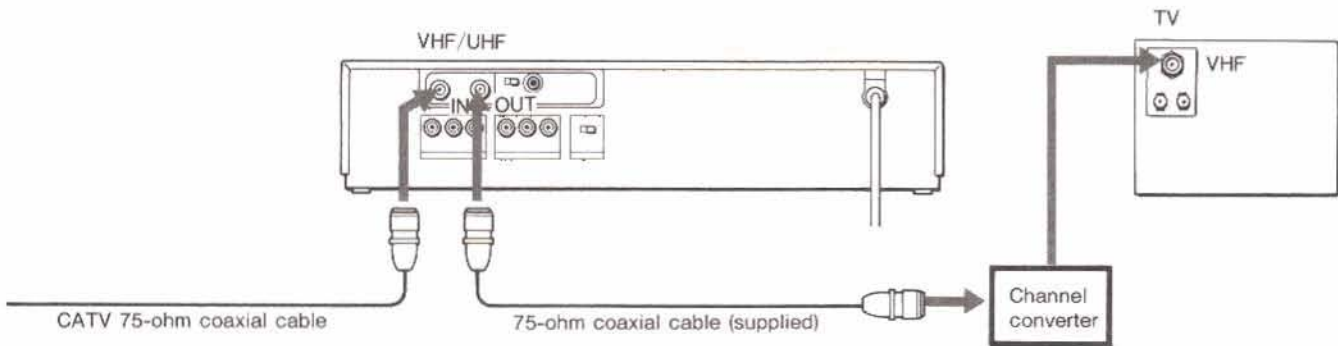
We recommend you to consult your cable company to make sure that the cable is properly connected.



When a TV is not a cable TV compatible type

Connect the cable TV channel converter between the recorder and the TV so that you can watch another

cable TV program while recording one cable TV program. (The TV/VTR button is set to TV.)

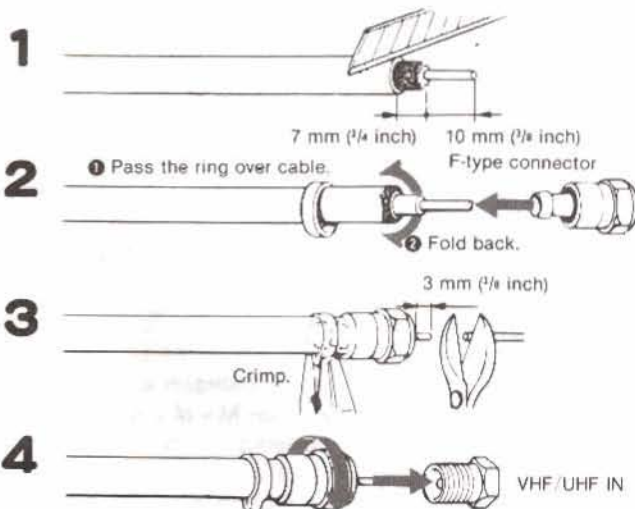


Note to CATV system installer in the U. S. A.

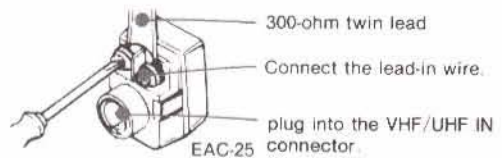
This reminder is provided to call the cable TV system installer's attention to Article 820-22 of the NEC that provides guidelines for proper grounding and, in

particular, specifies that the cable ground shall be connected to the grounding system of the building, as close to the point of cable entry as practical.

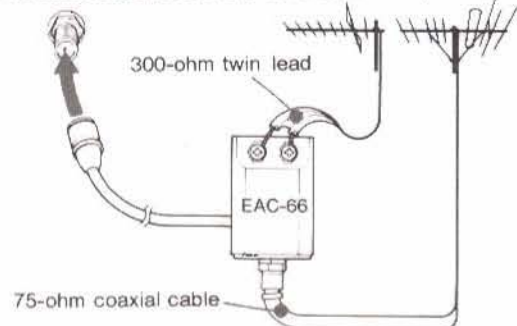
How to attach an F-type connector



How to attach an EAC-25 external antenna connector



How to attach an EAC-66 U/V band separator (mixer)

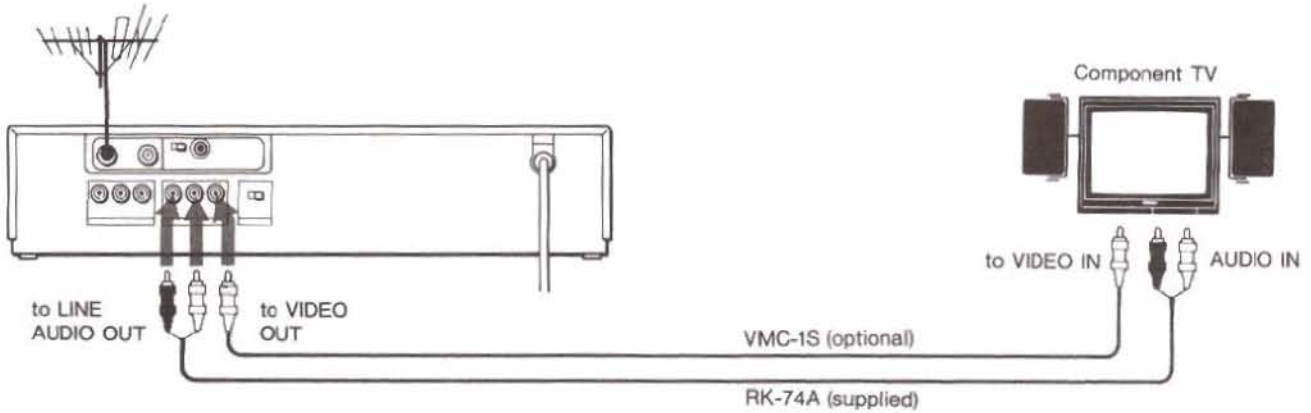


CONNECTING A COLOR MONITOR

To obtain a better-quality picture, connect a color monitor, such as the Sony Profeel Trinitron Component TV.

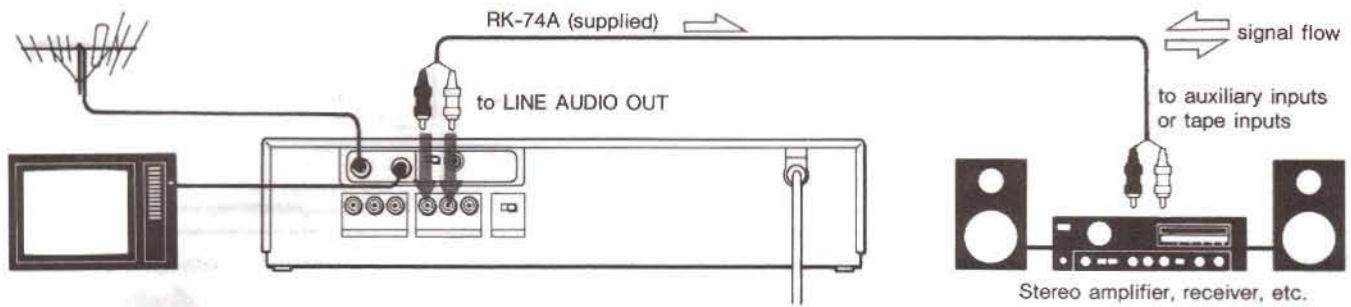
When a component TV is combined with the speaker system as illustrated, you can enjoy tapes recorded with Beta hi-fi stereo.

To use a component TV tuner together with the monitor, make the same connection as in the case of the recorder and the conventional TV receiver described on pages 23 and 24. For details on the connection of the TV tuner and the monitor, refer to the instruction manual of the TV tuner.



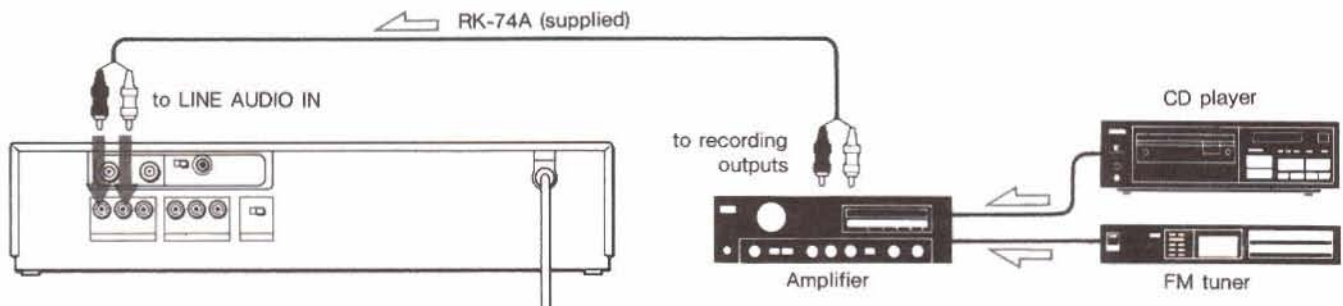
CONNECTION TO AN AUDIO SYSTEM

You can enjoy tapes recorded with Beta hi-fi stereo when the recorder is connected to your audio system.

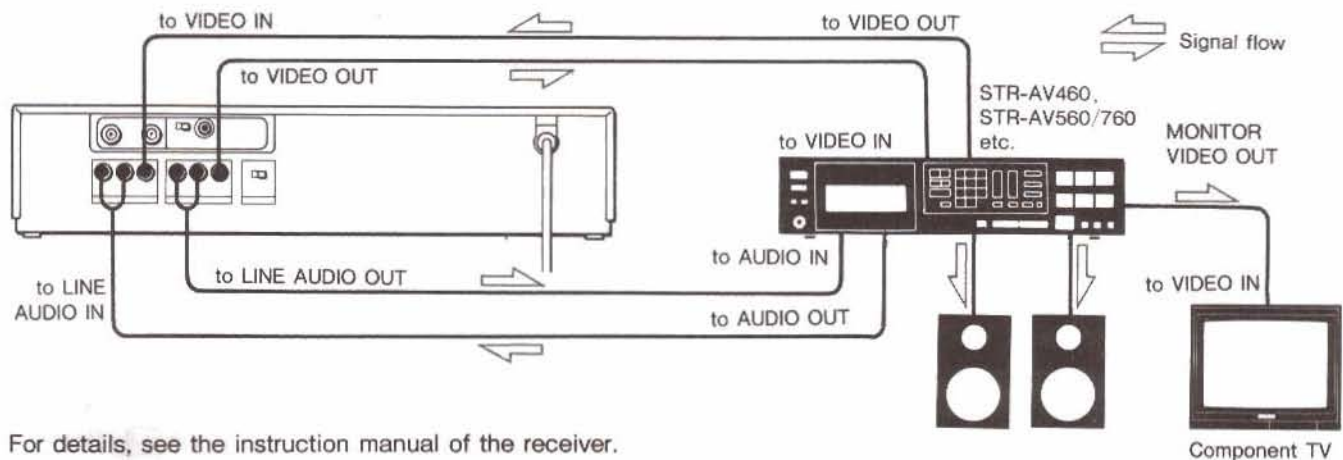


To record audio signals only from your audio system

You can record from an audio source such as an FM tuner, CD player, with the Beta hi-fi system without recording video signals.



Connection to receiver equipped with VIDEO connectors



For details, see the instruction manual of the receiver.

Notes

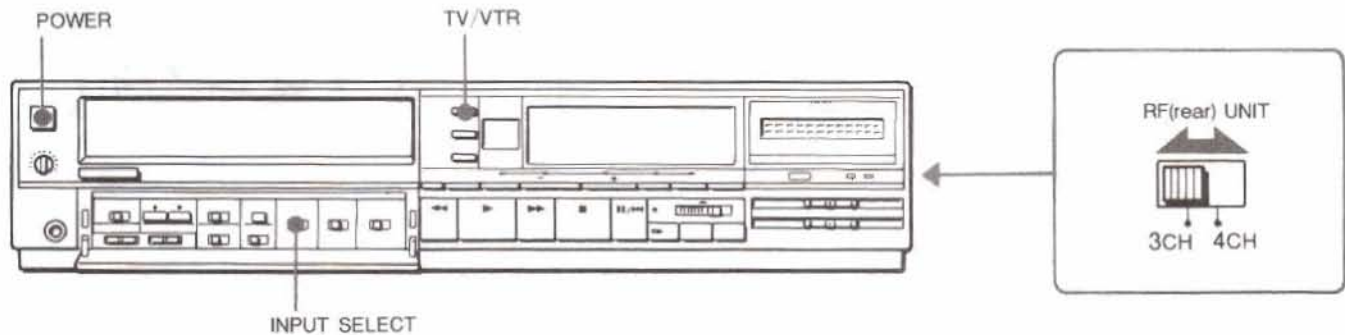
- If the VCR is installed near a tuner or a radio, noise may be heard in AM reception. In this case, keep the VCR away from the tuner or the radio, adjust the AM bar antenna for minimum noise, or connect an external AM antenna to the tuner.

- Before connecting or disconnecting the power cord of the VCR, be sure to turn off the connected amplifier.

ADJUSTMENTS

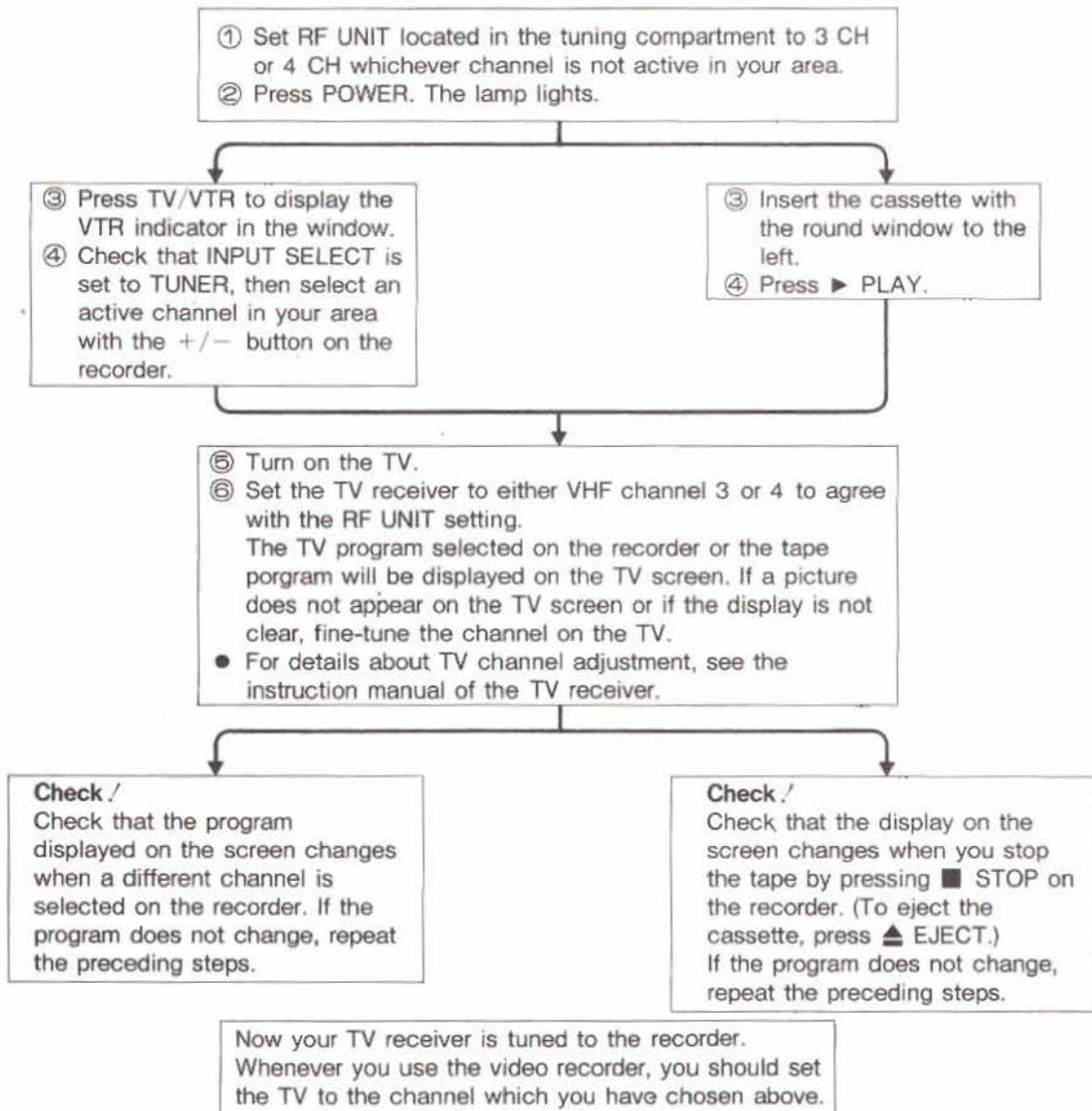
ADJUSTING THE TV

Your TV receiver must be adjusted to receive the signal from your recorder. If you connect a color monitor, it does not need adjusting.



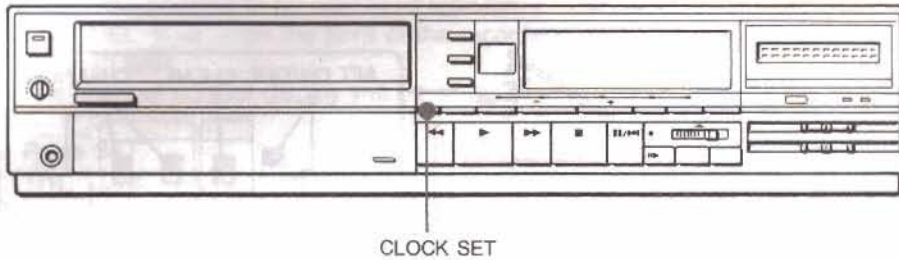
If you do not have a recorded video cassette tape

If you have a recorded video cassette tape



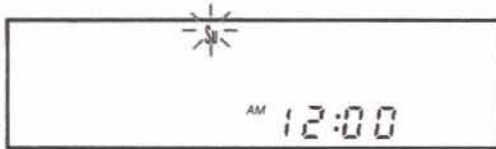
SETTING THE CLOCK

When you connect the AC power cord to a wall outlet, the clock indicates "Su AM 12:00" and it will blink to show that the clock is ready to be set.



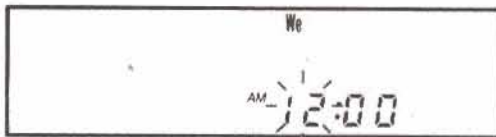
Example: to set for Wednesday afternoon at 3:56

1 Press **CLOCK SET**.



Set the day with the + or - button until "We" appears.

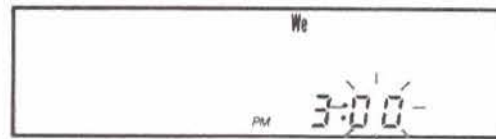
2 Press **NEXT**.



Set the hour with the + or - button until "PM3:00" appears.

AM 12:00 = midnight PM 12:00 = noon

3 Press **NEXT**.

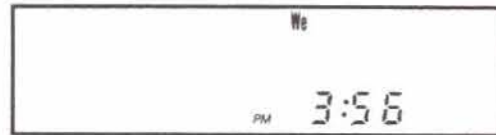


Set the minute with the + or - button until "PM3:56" appears.

4 Press **NEXT**.

(For accurate setting, press NEXT at the same time with an announced time signal.)

The clock will now show the current time.



The dots of the colon (:) alternately blink every 30 seconds.

+/- buttons

The + and - buttons can be used in two ways:

When you keep a button pressed, the digits will advance continuously until the button is released.



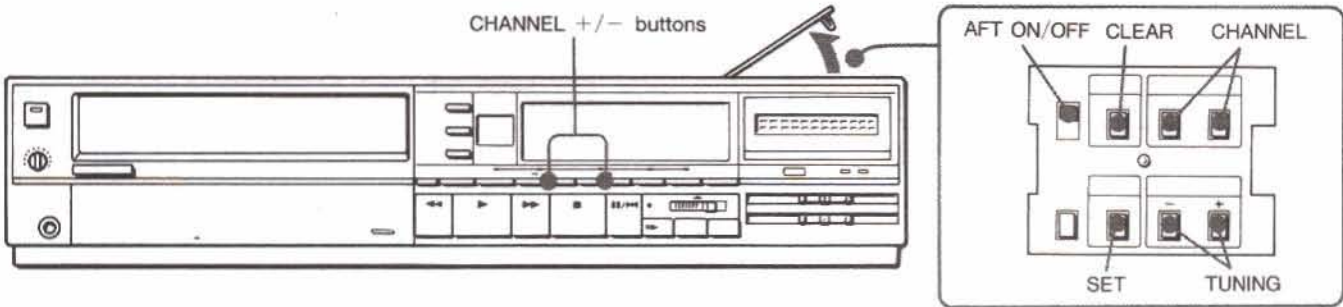
When you press and immediately release a button, the digits will advance by one.



PRESETTING THE ACTIVE CHANNELS IN YOUR AREA

Your recorder is capable of receiving VHF channels 2-13, UHF channels 14-69 and cable TV channels 14-36 (A to W), 66-94 (W+30 to W+58) and 98-125 (A-2 to W+84). See channel chart on page 31.

You can preset 14 channels so that only the desired channels will appear in sequence when you select a channel later on.



BEFORE PRESETTING

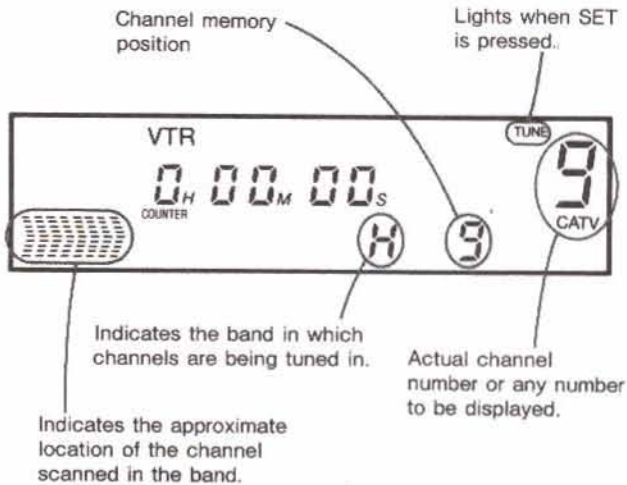
- 1 Open the tuning compartment on the top of the recorder.
- 2 Turn on the recorder and the TV.
Make sure that the TV is set to the correct channel (channel 3 or 4) for the recorder.
- 3 Set the INPUT SELECT switch on the recorder to TUNER.

PRESETTING CHANNELS

- 1 Press SET.
The "TUNE" indicator will appear in the window.

- 4 Press TUNING + once.
The first channel appearing on the screen will be memorized.

If this is not the channel you wish, repeat pressing TUNING + or -. Every time you press TUNING, a higher-numbered channel will be tuned in by pressing +, and a lower-numbered channel by -.



- 5 Change the number displayed at the far right of the window to indicate the actual channel number received (or any number).
Press "CHANNEL 10" (in the tuning compartment) to change the tens-digit display.
Press "CHANNEL 1" (in the tuning compartment) to change the units-digit display.

Every time "10" is pressed, the display changes
Blank → 1 → 2 → 3...9 → Blank → 1 → 2...19
CATV CATV CATV CATV

Every time "1" is pressed, the display changes:
Blank → 0 → 1 → 2 → 3...9

- 2 Select a channel memory position with the CHANNEL + or - button on the front of the recorder for the desired channel to be tuned in.
- 3 Press CLEAR.
The channel number display will be changed to "___" and the recorder is reset to the lowest frequency of the VHF band.

- 6 Repeat steps 2 to 5 for other channel memory positions to be preset.

- 7 Press SET.
The "TUNE" indicator disappears.

TO CANCEL AN UNUSED CHANNEL

- 1 Press SET.
The "TUNE" indicator will appear in the window.
- 2 Select the channel to be cancelled with the CHANNEL + or - on the front of the recorder.
- 3 Press CLEAR.
The channel number display will be changed to " _ _ _".
- 4 Press SET.
The "TUNE" indicator disappears.
Now the cancelled channel will be skipped when either the CHANNEL +/- buttons on the recorder or on the Commander is pressed.

TO FINE-TUNE A WEAK STATION

If the picture of a particular channel is not acceptable, set AFT to the OFF position and press + or - TUNING until the picture becomes clearer. When viewing this particular channel, do not set AFT to ON.

CABLE TV CHANNEL CHART *

Cable TV systems use letters or numbers to designate channels. To tune in a channel, refer to this chart.

CATV channels in numbers		98	99	14	15	16	17	18					
CATV channels in letters		A-2	A-1	A	B	C	D	E					
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	
32	33	34	35	36	66						94	100	101
S	T	U	V	W	W+30						W+58	W+59	W+60
102		123		124	125								
W+61		W-82		W+83	W+84								

Check with your local cable TV company for more complete information on the available channels.

*The designation of the cable TV channels conform to the EIA/NCTA recommendation.

Note

Pay cable TV systems use scrambled or encoded signals and require special converters (decoders) in addition to the normal cable connection.

SPECIFICATIONS

System

Video recording system	Rotary two-head helical scanning
Audio recording system	Beta hi-fi system (2 channels) (Recording on the conventional audio track is monaural)
Video signal	EIA standard, NTSC color
Usable cassettes	Cassettes having the mark II
Tape speed	I / II : 4.0 cm/sec. (only for playback) II : 2.0 cm/sec. III : 1.33 cm/sec.
Maximum recording time	II : 3 hours 20 min. III : 5 hours (with Sony L-830 cassette)
Fast-forward and rewind time	Approx. 3 1/2 min. (L-500)
Audio frequency response	Beta hi-fi OFF II : 50-10,000 Hz III : 50-7,000 Hz Beta hi-fi ON MPX FILTER OFF II , III : 20-20,000 Hz
Wow and flutter	Beta hi-fi ON Less than 0.005% WRMS
Dynamic range	Beta hi-fi ON More than 80 dB
Tuner section	
Channel coverage	VHF channels 2 to 13 UHF channels 14 to 69 Cable TV channels 14 to 36, 66 to 94, 98 to 125
VHF output signal	Channel 3 or 4 (selected) 75 ohms, unbalanced
Antenna	75-ohm antenna terminal for VHF and UHF
Inputs and outputs	
Video input	Phono jack (1) 1 V p-p ± 0.5 V p-p, 75 ohms, unbalanced, sync negative
Video output	Phono jack (1) 1 V p-p ± 0.5 V p-p, 75 ohms, unbalanced, sync negative

Audio input	Phono jack (2) -10 dBs (0 dBs = 0.775 V rms), more than 47 kilohms
Audio output	Phono jack (2) -10 dBs (at load impedance 47 kilohms less than 10 kilohms)
Timer section	
Clock	Synchronized with the power frequency
Time indication	12-hour cycle
Timer setting	Only to start and stop recording 6 programs can be set within 7 days
General	
Power requirements	120V ac ± 10%, 60 Hz ± 0.5%
Power consumption	43W
Operating temperature	5°C to 40°C (41°F to 104°F)
Storage temperature	-20°C to +60°C (-4°F to +140°F)
Dimensions	Approx. 430 × 95 × 364 mm (w/h/d) (17 × 3 3/4 × 14 1/2 inches) incl. projecting parts and controls
Weight	Approx. 9.2 kg (20lb 1 oz)
Remote Commander RMT-131	
Remote control system	Infrared control
Command mode	VTR-1
Power requirements	3 V dc, 2 size AA batteries (IEC designation R6)
Dimensions	Approx. 44 × 20 × 175 mm (w/h/d) (1 3/4 × 3/4 × 7 inches) including projecting parts and controls
Weight	Approx. 110 g (3.9 oz) with batteries

Accessories supplied

75-ohm coaxial cable with F-type connectors (2 m, 6 feet)	1
Antenna connector EAC-25	1
Connecting cord RK-74A	1
Remote Commander RMT-131 with two size AA batteries	1

Design and specifications subject to change without notice.

TROUBLE CHECKS

If any difficulty should arise during operation, first check the power cord connection, then go through the following list. Should the difficulty persist, unplug the unit and contact your Sony dealer or local authorized Sony service facility.

	Symptom	Possible causes and corrections
POWER	POWER switch does not function.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The recorder is in the timer standby mode. Press TIMER REC ON/OFF.
	The clock has stopped at "Su AM 12:00".	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There has been a power interruption. Reset the clock time and timer settings.
CLOCK AND TIMER	Timer setting cannot be made.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The clock is not set. ● The timer cannot be set during recording.
	TV program is not clearly displayed on the TV screen.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The channel for video recorder on the TV receiver is not correctly tuned. ● The TV signal is weak. Adjust the direction of the antenna. ● The ac power cord of the recorder is disconnected.
TV RECEPTION	Stereo programs are heard in monaural.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AUTO STEREO is set to OFF.
	No picture on the TV screen during recording or playback.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The TV's channel is not set to that preset for the video recorder.
RECORDING AND PLAYBACK	Picture being recorded cannot be monitored on the TV screen.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Press TV/VTR so that the VTR lights in the window.
	Noisy picture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The video heads may be contaminated. Clean the heads using the Sony L-25CL video head cleaning cassette. For details on cleaning, refer to the instructions furnished with the cleaning cassette. If the L-25CL cleaning cassette is not available in your area, have the heads cleaned at the nearest Sony service facility.
	Distorted or noisy sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recording level was not properly adjusted.
	Sound drop-outs of a Beta hi-fi recorded tape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The tape is defective. Use a new video cassette tape.
	Timer recording cannot be made correctly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The clock is not set correctly. ● There has been a power interruption. ● The cassette inserted has had the tab removed or no cassette has been inserted. ● The tape is at its end. ● Two or more timer setting overlap.
	SAP sound cannot be recorded.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Set NORMAL AUDIO to SAP. To listen to the SAP, set the AUDIO MONITOR (HI-FI/NORMAL) to NORMAL.
	No sound was recorded in the conventional audio track.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NORMAL AUDIO was set to SEP and there was no SAP broadcast.
	SAP sound cannot be played back.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Set AUDIO MONITOR to NORMAL.
	No sound is heard during playback.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A tape on which no sound is recorded on the conventional audio track is being played back with AUDIO MONITOR set to NORMAL. Set the switch to HI-FI.
	Noise band in the slow motion picture, stop action advance picture, or freeze picture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Press SLOW TRACKING to move it.
OTHERS	The tape counter does not operate even if the tape moves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The tape is brand-new. ● It will not operate with the unrecorded portion of a tape.
	Cassette cannot be inserted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The cassette being inserted is reversed. ● Another cassette has already been inserted.
	The cassette cannot be ejected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The recorder is turned off. ● Recording is being done.